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Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Ed Evans
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

Walter Park
Council Secretary

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of

Mayor's Disability Council

Friday, 17 January 2003

1:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 400

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

JAN 10 2003

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1:00 p.m.

- 1 Roll call
- 2 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
- 3 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes

1:10

- 4 Public comment on items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of MDC.
(Each speaker limited to two minutes.)
- 5 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Co-Chairs
- 6 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Director
- 7 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs

1:30

- 8 ACTION ITEM: Election of Co-Chair -- Election of MDC Co-Chair for six-month term.
(30 minutes).

2:00

- 9 DISCUSSION ITEM: Regarding enforcement of parking violations on sidewalks, blue zones, blocking curb ramps; including presentation by City staff on fine schedules, number of disability citations, revenue considerations, reporting procedures, etc.
(1 hour)

3:00

- 10 DISCUSSION ITEM: Mayor's Disability Council Public Service Award
- 11 DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence.
- 12 Public comment on items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of MDC.
(Each speaker limited to two minutes.)
- 13 DISCUSSION ITEM: Member requests for future agenda items.
- 14 DISCUSSION ITEM: Councilors' comments and announcements.
- 15 Adjournment in honor of Doug Martin, an author of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and ADA Coordinator at UCLA.

[Estimated times are only guidelines.]

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Mayor's Disability Council
Accessible Meeting Information

Regular Meetings – third Fridays (please confirm dates):

Next meeting dates: February 21 and March 21

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Mayor's Office on Disability



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Walter Park
Director

Upcoming Meetings:

MDC Executive Committee

War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300
San Francisco, CA 94102
Tuesday, 21 January 2003
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

MDC Programmatic Access Committee

Rose Resnick Lighthouse
214 Van Ness Avenue
2nd Floor Conference Room
San Francisco, CA 94102
Friday, 7 February 2003
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

JAN 10 2003

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MDC Employment Committee - CANCELLED

Friday, 14 February 2003
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

MDC Physical Access Committee

War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 308
San Francisco, CA 94102
Wednesday, 19 February 2003
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94102
Friday, 21 February 2003
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Norma Block
Acting Chair

Vincent Behan
Ed Evans
Elizabeth Grigsby
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Walter Park
Council Secretary

Mayor's Disability Council

Minutes

17 January 2003

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

FEB 25 2003

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1:05 p.m.

1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Norma Block, Ed Evans, Elizabeth Grigsby, Michael Kwok, Denise Senhaux.

Absent: Vincent Behan, August Longo.

Mayor's Office on Disability: Walter Park, Director; Ken Stein, Program Administrator; Josie J Lee, Acting Council Clerk.

Acting Chair, Norma Block called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the January 17, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) meeting was approved.

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

The minutes from the meeting of November 15, 2002 and December 20, 2002 were approved.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT.

- ♦ Edith McMillan, a caller on the Bridge Line expressed concerns about inaccessibility for people who use wheelchairs and walkers at Union Square.
- ♦ Pamela Dale, an opera singer, who addressed the Council in December, 2002 on the problem of theatrical fog and smoke stated that these items are heated antifreeze and chemicals that can cause permanent disability. People often think that fog is dry ice or steam. She is requesting the support of Supervisor Chris Daly and the Mayor's Disability Council to ban the use of these products in public buildings.
- ♦ Marti Goddard, Access Services Manager at the San Francisco Public Library invited interested people to attend their neighborhood branch library to talk about needs in the disability community. The libraries will be upgrading and renovating branches throughout the city over the next 20 years. Ms. Goddard can be contacted by phone at: 415.557-4557.
- ♦ Fred Dunn, a resident in San Francisco who uses a service dog reported on his difficulties with the San Francisco Police Department. He would like the MDC and Sergeant Mike Sullivan to organize a training program to educate the department that only service dogs in training are required to have an identification tag.

Michael Kwok suggested that Fred Dunn contact Supervisor Tom Ammiano to request funding for the training.

5 REPORT FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

No Report.

6 REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Walter Park reported on the following:

- Jim Whipple, Access Compliance Officer, is currently working on the physical access plan reviews and providing technical information for the Mayor's Office on Disability.
- Susan Mizner, Deputy Director, has returned to work part time at MOD.
- MOD staff attended a meeting with the deaf and hard of hearing citywide coalition to continue the implementation on the Needs Assessment Report.

- MOD staff attended a meeting with both the hardware manufacturer and Macromedia Designs authorizing programs that are used to create web pages and information kiosks and other kinds of information services. Their new products include accessibility to kiosks and web pages for persons who are visually impaired. MOD plans to work with the manufacturer on creating a demonstration project at City Hall.
- Ken Stein, MOD Program Administrator is working with the Mayor's Office on Housing in completing the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Report. MOD welcomes comments and public input on how to make subsidized housing more accessible to people with disabilities.
- A delegation technology group from Tokyo, Osaka, and Kinki University came to visit City Hall and MOD to trade assistive technology information in areas of transportation for people with disabilities.
- A person who uses a wheelchair called the MOD office with a request for assistance after he lost a wheel from his wheelchair and was injured while using an old non-code complying curb ramp on a sidewalk in San Francisco. The SF Police Department aided him home in an accessible van and MOD is working on having the wheelchair repaired.
- MOD continues to prioritize work on curb ramp policies and construction.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Harry Mar, Programmatic Access Committee Chair reported that the subcommittee for Programmatic Access met on Friday, January 3, 2003.

Harry expressed his appreciation for Denise Senhau in attending the PAC Meeting.

Walter Park reported that the Employment Committee Meeting did not meet.

Ed Evans reported that the Physical Access Committee did not meet due to lack of staff. Future discussions will include an inspection of the Union Square project; programs on websites and kiosks for persons who are blind, deaf and hard of hearing.

8 ELECTION OF MDC CO-CHAIR FOR SIX MONTH

Ed Evans was elected as Co-Chair.

9 ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING VIOLATIONS ON SIDEWALKS, BLUE ZONES, AND BLOCKING CURB RAMPS. PRESENTATION BY CITY STAFF ON FINE SCHEDULES, NUMBER OF DISABILITY CITATIONS, REVENUE CONSIDERATIONS AND REPORTING PROCEDURES.

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- ♦ Mary Ellen O'Brien, Deputy Director of the Department of Parking and Traffic and Manager of the Citation Division and Residential Parking Permit Program reported that her office is responsible for adjudicating tickets and addressing policies within the department. She explained that the term "PCO" refers to "Parking Control Officer". Within the Parking control division, the "CPO" or "Community Parking Officer" acts as a liaison to the community regarding disputes between neighbors of blocked driveways, double parking and other enforcement issues.
- ♦ Ed Evans inquired on the status of a separate phone line for disability complaints being set up in the Department of Parking and Traffic.

Mary Ellen O'Brien replied that the Department of Parking and Traffic is housed in a privately owned business (Mental Health) and the phone lines are hooked up to the building's phone lines, with no additional lines accessible for hook up. The only possible alternative is to move to a new facility which DPT is looking into.

- ♦ Darlene Delfino, Assistant Director of Enforcement and Head of the Disabled Placard Confiscation Team reported the following statistics from 2001 – 2002:
 - Number of placards confiscated (individuals improperly / illegally using them) and were cited as a misdemeanor (SF):
Year 2001 = **8** were cited out of **539** placards confiscated
Year 2002 = **9** were cited out of **852** placards confiscated
 - Number of placards issued:
Year 2002 = **1,486,882** Total
 - Number of placards issued in surrounding counties of SF = **210,000**
 - Number of placards issued in City of San Francisco = **32,000**
 - Number of sidewalk violations:
Year 2000-2001 = **125,982**
 - Number of citations issued for parking in blue zones:
Year 2000-2001 = **1,937**

- ♦ Ed Evans asked how much revenue was generated to the city by the citations.

Mary Ellen O'Brien replied that each ticket for the misuse of placard is \$275. Multiplying that by the number of citations, if not protested, would give the potential revenue.

- ♦ Ed Evans asked if a parking control officer could cite non-placard vehicles parked in blue zones of supermarket lots and shopping centers and if these lots were patrolled.

Mary Ellen O'Brien replied that the private companies hired to patrol the lots cannot cite but can call the Department of Parking and Traffic to do so.

- ◆ Mary Ellen O'Brien noted that there is progress in inappropriate sidewalk parking since the citation was raised from \$50.00 to \$75.00 this year. In 2004, the fine will go to \$100.00. As of 2002, issuance of sidewalk parking citations decreased by 50%.
- ◆ Ed Evans stated that there has been an increased number of persons violating the red zones for Muni vehicles at the bus stops which prevents vehicles from pulling in and picking up the senior persons with disabilities. He would like more attention given to those violations.

Mary Ellen O'Brien responded that red zone citations have decreased by 14% since the cost of this ticket is \$250.00

- ◆ Michael Kwok asked about the procedure to request a dispatcher to cite a vehicle parked in a white zone.

Mary Ellen O'Brien responded that by the time a dispatcher arrives at the site, the vehicle has left which would take away from their department's ability to respond to a more serious, safety-related issue in enforcement. A proposal to the Board of Supervisors is in effect to change "white zones" to "tow-away zones".

- ◆ Ed Evans stated that in front of his building, white zones were painted for parking during business hours which is not conducive to a senior housing development. He would like the zones to be marked for 24 hours.
- ◆ Bob Planthold stated that in the State of California, there is the option to hire and train people with disabilities to enforce parking violations, however, the Department of Parking and Traffic has never authorized this option.
- ◆ Susan Vaughn, a member of "Walk, San Francisco" addressed the following issues in regard to cars parking on sidewalks and blocking curb cuts:
 - Every car parked on any portion of a sidewalk is parked in a handicapped zone, according to the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - A professional development workshop for parking control officers would be beneficial in demonstrating the danger to blind persons posed by parked cars on sidewalks.
 - The number of registered vehicles in San Francisco is increasing without enforcement of parking regulations.
- ◆ Leslie Clark pointed out that people tend to park in areas where wheelchairs need to go.
- ◆ Ed Evans applauded Bob Planthold for bringing up the fact that volunteers from the senior and disabled community could assist the regular parking control officers cite vehicles that are parked in places where access for the disabled and elderly are needed.

- ♦ Ed Evans would like to suggest that the Department of Parking and Traffic and the Board of Supervisors arrange a percentage of the fines levied against people with infractions in disability areas to go toward making San Francisco more accessible.
- ♦ Mary Ellen O'Brien responded that the Department of Parking and Traffic is taking their job seriously. Sidewalk violations have been reduced which indicates the job is getting done.
- ♦ Michael Kwok and Ed Evans thanked Mary Ellen O'Brien and the Department of Parking and Traffic for their presentation and all their good work.

10 MAYOR'S DISABILILTY COUNCIL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Ed Evans would like to honor people who serve and provide in outstanding ways for the disability community on a monthly or quarterly basis. MDC welcomes suggestions for criterias, qualifications, and recommendations for selection of the award. Please submit to the Mayor's Disability Council, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300, San Francisco, Ca 94102. Phone: 415. 554-6789; TTY: 415.554-6799, email: MOD@sfgov.org.

11 CORRESPONDENCE

- ♦ Josie Lee reported that MOD has received a letter from Ernestine Patterson raising three issues for the council's consideration.
- ♦ Ken Stein reported that both Muni Access Advisory Committee (MAAC) and MTC Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee are seeking applicants for people to serve on the committees. Interested applicants may contact MAAC (meets the third Thursdays of the month) at: 415. 923-6142. Applicants for the MTC Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (meets the first Thursday of the month in Oakland by Lake Merritt) call: 510.464-7783 for more information.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ Bruce Allison, a volunteer instructor at Digital Bridge, a program that trains seniors and people with disabilities in beginning computer access guides. Mr. Allison welcomes interested students to contact Laurie at 415.703-0188. The address is: 1370 Mission Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco, Ca.

13 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ♦ Ed Evans would like an item on the next agenda that focuses on the sidewalk conditions in San Francisco. Property owners are responsible for the upkeep of their

sidewalks but there are not enough inspectors from the Department of Public Works to enforce this situation.

14 COUNCILORS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ Michael Kwok would like a representative from the MDC Executive Committee to meet with the Department of Parking and Traffic to work on policy changes.

15 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. in honor of Doug Martin, an author of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Coordinator at U.C. Los Angeles.

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Mayor's Disability Council



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Walter Park
Council Secretary

AGENDA
Regular Meeting of
Mayor's Disability Council
Friday, 21 February 2003
1:00 p.m.
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FEB 18 2003

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1:00 p.m.

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- 2 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
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1:10

- 4 Public comment on items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of MDC.
(Each speaker limited to two minutes.)
- 5 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Co-Chairs
- 6 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Director
- 7 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs

1:30

- 8 Information and Discussion Item: Implications and impacts of proposed local, state and Federal budget cuts on persons with disabilities. Representatives from the Departments of Public Health, Human Services, Aging and Adult Services, and Muni have been invited to present information on proposed budget cuts and their impact on persons with disabilities. A representative from Planning for Elders and the Central City will provide an update on the implications of proposed City and State Budget cuts.
(90 minutes).

3:00

9 (The Council will recess for a 10-minute break)

3:10

- 10 ACTION ITEM: Approval of MDC Letter To Governor Gray Davis regarding the State of California's filing a *Medical Board v Hason* appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court with a petition to the court to declare that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is unconstitutional. (15 minutes)
- 11 INFORMATION ITEM: Community Vocational Enterprises -- Presentation by Steve Poulin, Program Director, regarding job placement services for persons with psychiatric disabilities. (15 minutes).
- 12 DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence.
- 13 Public comment on items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of MDC. (Each speaker limited to two minutes.)
- 14 DISCUSSION ITEM: Member requests for future agenda items.
- 15 DISCUSSION ITEM: Councilors' comments and announcements.
- 16 Adjournment

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Mayor's Disability Council

Minutes

21 February 2003

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MAR 28 2003

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1:10 p.m.

1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Vincent Behan, Norma Block, Ed Evans, Elizabeth Grigsby, Michael Kwok, Denise Senhaux.

Absent: August Longo

Mayor's Office on Disability: Walter Park, Director; Susan Mizner, Deputy Director; Ken Stein, Program Administrator; Josie J Lee, Acting Council Clerk.

Chair, Ed Evans called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the February 21, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) meeting was approved.

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of January 17, 2003 were approved.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Ed Evans requested a new Mental Health Committee be formed under the chair of Norma Block to address mental health issues at the council meeting.

Norma Block accepted.

Ed Evans stated that members of the public who would like to call in their comments may reach the meeting via the bridge phone (415) 554-9632.

6 REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Walter Park reported on the following:

- MOD has been discussing budget revenues and expenditures with various City departments, which is a main item in today’s meeting.
- MOD is working with two consultants to update the transition plan and database.
- MOD, Department of Telecommunications and MIS Administrative Services is currently working with Quad Media Hardware to install an accessible kiosk in City Hall.
- MOD, Mayor’s Office on Housing and Department of Public Works has been working together in code compliance procedures and documentation of city funded construction projects for accessibility in speeding the process of reviews through written communications and fewer meetings.
- MOD’s Complaint Division is currently updating a database to better track complaints and services requested from citizens.
- MOD has returned \$1.1 million to the general budget fund this month.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS.

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCESS COMMITTEE

Harry Mar, Chair of the Programmatic Access Committee reported that the Programmatic Access Committee met on Friday, February 7, 2003.

Harry expressed his appreciation to Linda Crawford, Assistant ADA Coordinator from the

Department of Elections for providing an overview of poll sites and election materials accessible to the disabled community. Ms Crawford welcomes public comments and plans on providing updates in the future.

Harry would like to recognize and thank individual members who work on the committee which include: Regina Bruckner, Bill Bruckner, Jerry Grace, Jul Parsons and Denise Senhaux.

The next meeting is scheduled on Friday, March 7, 2003 at the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM and will include a representative from the UCSF Statistics Unit, who is embarking on an effort to make their website accessible. Interested parties are welcome to attend.

REPORT FROM THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Richard Rothman, Chair of the MDC Employment Committee apologized for not attending previous MDC meetings but has been meeting with the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in implementing Rule 115 (a City Charter Amendment under Civil Service Rule that provides certified people with disabilities to bypass the exam process and become permanent employees after a year of successful employment). The City is not hiring at this time but will do so in a year or two with the implementation of Rule 115.

The next meeting is scheduled on Friday, April 11, 2003, City Hall, Room 421 from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Walter Park thanked Richard Rothman for his work on the Employment Committee.

REPORT FROM THE PHYSICAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Ed Evans, Chair of the Physical Access Committee reported that he has been working closely with Kevin Jensen, ADA Access Coordinator, Department of Public Works on the following: downtown sidewalks, curb cuts, Union Square Facility and Recreational Parks in San Francisco.

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, March 19, 2003 at the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 304 from 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

- 8 IMPLICATIONS AND IMPACT OF PROPOSED LOCAL AND STATE BUDGET CUTS ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AGING AND ADULT SERVICES, AND MUNI HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PRESENT INFORMATION ON PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM PLANNING FOR ELDERLY IN THE CENTRAL CITY WILL REPORT ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED CITY AND STATE BUDGET CUTS. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME

Please see attached Summary of Testimony.

9 APPROVAL OF MDC LETTERS TO GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL BILL LOCKYER REGARDING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA’S FILING A MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA v HASON APPEAL TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT WITH A PETITION TO THE COURT TO DECLARE THAT TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL

- ◆ Josie Lee, Office Secretary, MOD, read two letters written from Ed Evans, Chair of the Mayor’s Disability Council on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco: one letter addressed to Attorney General Bill Lockyer and the other letter addressed to the Honorable Governor Gray Davis.
- ◆ The letters were approved by the Council Members with Michael Kwok abstaining.

10 COMMUNITY VOCATIONAL ENTERPRISES – PRESENTATION BY STEVE POULIN, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, REGARDING JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES

- ◆ Norma Block introduced Steve Poulin, Program Director of CVE or Community Vocational Enterprises, a community based nonprofit organization that provides training programs, seminars and workshops to help clients feel prepared to work. Since 1986, the program has helped hundreds of people with disabilities, including Norma, find jobs, maintain their identity and to keep their jobs.
- ◆ Steve Poulin stated that it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to present the program.
- ◆ Steve Poulin explained that CVE operates with a cooperative contract with the City and County Community Mental Health, soon to be Behavioral Health Agency and the Department of Rehabilitation (State Agency). Last year, the program served approximately 300 residents of San Francisco recovering from mental illness and employed 198 workers into their transitional business after graduation from one of the business programs (janitorial, business, food and mailer), which makes CVE unique.
- ◆ For the past two years, CVE has been a partner with an organization called The Roberts Enterprise Development Fund which creates a web-based tracking and outcome management system. Approximately 70% of the individuals who found jobs through the program are still employed.
- ◆ Qualifications for persons wishing to enter the program are: Age 16 or older and a resident of San Francisco receiving Mental Health Services.
- ◆ Orientations on CVE services are held twice a month. Interested parties may call for dates, times and registration at 415. 544-0424. The website address is: **www.cve.org**.

11 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ Bob Planthold gave a personal and informal update on a topic from January's meeting regarding the failure of the City to hire people with disabilities to enforce aspects of fines, revenues and access enforcement with the Department of Parking and Traffic.
- ♦ Bob reported that he had sent an email to many City Hall staff and other City Departments outlining the fact that if anybody would hire people with disabilities it could bring in substantial revenue. There has been no official response to his email.
- ♦ Ed Evans commended Bob Planthold on this activity and pointed out that City Officials should consider the fact that many seniors and people with disabilities would be willing to volunteer their time and services to tag violators parking on sidewalks, blocking curb cuts, parking illegally in white zones and in front of senior and disabled building.

13 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ♦ Norma Block suggested that follow up on the Budget issues presented at this meeting should become an action item for the next meeting.
- ♦ Elizabeth Grigsby announced that a **Conference on Social Work and Disability** at San Francisco State University will be held April 2, 2003 from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. Topics include disability history, culture and perspectives, disability policies, disability issues across the life span; disability hate crimes; the deaf community and disability culture. Admission is free but seating is limited. Registration is required by March 7, 2003. Additional information is available at: <http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~swdconf/>. Another conference to take place will be the **International Conference on Abuse of Children and Adults with Disabilities**, sponsored by the Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime to be held on March 10 –12, 2003, Riverside Convention Center in Riverside, California.
- ♦ Denise Senhaux supported Norma Block's suggestion to consider the testimonials given today and to make recommendations to the Mayor.

14 COUNCILORS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ Ed Evans expressed the need to revisit some of the departments in relation to revenue, such as the Department of Parking and Traffic and the Department of Public Works to discuss the issues related to cuts and how more revenue could be achieved.

15 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Summary of Testimony

Mayor's Office on Disability Hearing: Implications and Impact of Proposed Local and State Budget Cuts On Persons with Disabilities Mayor's Disability Council 21 February 2003

Introduction -- Walter Park, Director, Mayor's Office on Disabilities:

The purpose of the hearing is to increase transparency, meaning that everyone will be working with the same information. Six invited include: Phil Arnold, Director of Finance and Planning, Department of Human Services; Derrick Lam, Executive Director of Aging and Adult Services; Julian Low, Analyst, Mayor's Budget Office, Kate Toran, Program Director, MUNI Accessible Services; Anthony Wagner, Executive Administrator For Hospital Systems, Department of Public Health and Marie Jobling, Director, Planning for Elders in the Central City. In addition, members of the public and representatives of community organizations are invited to give public comment.

Testimony from City Departments

Mayor's Budget Office Julian Low, Analyst:

- In December, the City found out that there would be \$170 million in lost revenues due to the business, hotel and sales tax losses.
- In January 2003, the number increased to a \$350 million deficit due to the State's budget plans.
- The City's budget is \$5 billion. Departments such as the Port and the Airport generate about 50% of the revenue. Certain amounts are set aside for programs such as MUNI, Children and the Library. Only 25% of the budget can be modified to meet the deficit.
- The initial request to from the Mayor to city departments was to reduce their budgets by 10% and later to prepare a contingency budget cutting another 10%, which would address the first \$100 million of the \$350 million deficit. The remaining \$250 million will be addressed through labor negotiations.
- In terms of the disability community, last year, \$25 –30 million was allocated in the capital budget to work on the Transition Plan. This year it will be \$10 –12 million with \$8 – 10 million going towards maintenance of departmental buildings. That leaves only a few million for Transition Plan work.

MDC Chair Edward Evans asked whether there would be an increase in fees for services and whether there would be aggressive enforcement and collection of fines from the departments that issue the fines. Julian Low replied that fee increases and reducing expenditures as part of the budget plan to increase revenue will still be presented to the Board of Supervisors between now and the end of the fiscal year. Improvement on fees collection will also aid in the economic recovery.

Dept. of Human Services

Phil Arnold, Director of Finance and Planning

- DHS budget for the next year has been approved by the Human Services Commission and will be forwarded to the Controller and the Mayor for approval.
- There were no programmatic reductions in any major programs within DHS.
- In-Home Support Services Program, which provides services to seniors and people with disabilities to keep them in their homes and out of institutions, had no reductions. However, the workload on cases continues to grow, requiring constant review by staff, without an increase in staff.
- The state has proposed the maximum allowable income for people receiving IHSS services will be dropped from 133% of the Federal poverty level to 100%, which means that many people receiving services will need to pay a share of cost or be dropped from the program. The \$750,000 that would be needed to cover that share of cost is not included in the DHS budget proposed for next year.
- Wages for IHSS workers will remain at \$10.10 per hour. The state increased its contribution to the hourly wage rate by \$1.00, but the general funds saved are being used to preserve other DHS programs that may need to be cut back.

Dept. of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)

Darrick Lam, Executive Director:

Mr. Lam explained that DAAS came into being in July of 2000 by combining the former Commission on Aging, Office on Aging, Public Administrator's Office, Public Guardian, County Veteran's Service Office, and the Public Conservatorship Program. In 2002, Adult Protective Services was added. Combined, the goal is for DAAS to provide coordinated services to seniors and people with disabilities. He reported the following:

- The Department has restructured the former ten neighborhood senior resource centers to be resource centers for aging and disabled adults. Unfortunately, funding for these centers has been reduced from \$1.5 million to \$1.2 million.
- State cuts will reduce funding for seniors by \$253,000, for Nutrition and Support Services. These cuts will totally eliminate Brown Bag Programs, Foster Grandparents, and the Senior Companion programs.
- There is no major impact in the Adult Protective Services, the Public Conservator (provides services to people with disabilities) or the Representative Payee Program.

- Local cuts required a reduction of \$783,000 in funding for DAAS. The major impact occurs in the Office on Aging in which 40+ contracts will be up for bid (home delivered meals, home support services, case management, adult day health services, etc.)
- The Commission approved the reduction in budget to be shared 55% by the contract agencies and 45% by the Department of Aging and Adult Services. Some savings should be achieved through reducing the lead number of agencies from 8 to 3, thus reducing administrative and overhead costs.
- DAAS expects to increase revenue through Targeted Case Management (a program in which the Public Guardian Service bills Medi-Cal for Services). Revenue for the Department of Aging and Adult Services from parking fees is down. The Department has been asked to cut an additional \$550,000.

MUNI Accessible Services

Kate Toran, Program Director

MUNI has succeeded in improving rider satisfaction and employee morale. MUNI, like the other City departments is also working on closing the \$15 million shortfall by holding vacant positions, by not creating new programs, and by improving and increasing management and operating efficiencies. In the fiscal year 2004, the projected budget deficit will be \$52.3 million – \$21.6 million from a revenue shortfall and \$30.7 million from increased expenses.

She reported the following on revenue and expenditures:

- MUNI receives revenue from four main sources:
 - Parking = 25%
 - Fares = 22%
 - General Fund = 22%
 - State, Local and Regional Funds = 19%
 - Other sources = 12%
- MUNI's Expenditures include:
 - Salaries and fringe benefits = 73%
 - Paratransit worker's comp and claims = 15%
 - Materials and supplies = 7%
 - Services of other depts. = 5%
- To meet the \$52.3 million deficit, MUNI proposed to raise \$37.6 million in revenue through:
 - Flexible Federal funds - \$10 million
 - Increased parking fees and fines – \$10.4 million
 - Increased garage rates – \$1.7 million
 - Increased fares - \$15.6 million

- MUNI plans to save \$15 million through:
- Service management and efficiencies - \$3 million
- Internal efficiencies - \$4.7 million
- Labor participation - \$7 million.

The revenues from fares will be as follows [updated as of March 13, 2003]:

Fixed route fare proposal as it relates to seniors and people with disabilities:

o Senior and disabled cash fare, current	\$.35
o Senior and disabled cash fare, proposed	\$.35
o Senior and disabled discount fast pass, current	\$ 8.00
o Senior and disabled discount fast pass, proposed	\$10.00

Paratransit fare proposal:

o Lift van, current:	\$8 for a monthly pass or \$.40 per trip
o Lift van, proposed:	\$10 for a monthly pass or \$.40 per trip
o Group van, current:	\$8 per average daily attendance
o Group van, proposed:	\$10 per average daily attendance
o Taxi, current:	\$3 per \$30 book of scrip
o Taxi, proposed:	\$4 per \$30 book of scrip
o ADA Access, current:	\$1.65 per one-way trip
o ADA Access, proposed:	\$1.65 per one-way trip

Edward Evans inquired about the revenue impacts of fraud reduction, and how the new fuel-efficient vehicles would affect the deficit. Kate Toran responded that since switching to a fare sticker last August, fraud has been reduced. Alicia Fletcher, MUNI Finance responded that there is definitely operating efficiency from new, reliable vehicles which eliminated spending on services and repairs, but those efficiencies have already been factored into projected budgets.

Dept. of Public Health

Anthony Wagner, Executive Administrator for Hospital Systems:

The Department of Public Health's budget is approximately \$1 billion. Of that \$273 million comes from the general fund. DPH has been asked to reduce its budget by \$8.7 million in the current fiscal year; and for the next fiscal year, to reduce the budget by \$16 million in inflationary increases, \$18 million in general fund reduction, plus an additional \$27.2 million for the 10% general fund reduction.

DPH used the following four principles from their Strategic plan as guidelines to carry out the reductions:

1. Expand community-based alternatives and decrease the need for institutional care, by providing the most appropriate, least restrictive level of care.
2. Allocate resources to targeted populations with the most need and who lack other options.
3. Strengthen and promote prevention
4. Use data to reorganize, reprioritize, reduce or eliminate services based on priorities, performance measures and the strategic plan.

Based on these principles, the following reductions have been presented to the Health Commission and sent to the Mayor:

- Change the Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility (MHRF) from a locked facility to a residential facility for mentally disabled clients - \$8.1 million reduction.
- Eliminate or reduce seven community-based mental health programs - \$1.3 million
- Reduce or eliminate 16 community based substance abuse programs - \$3.1 million
- Eliminate contracts for emotional and practical peer support for persons with HIV and AIDS - \$800,000
- Reduce support staff at health centers - \$433,300
- Eliminate acupuncture services - \$40,000
- Reduce home health aids - \$221,000
- Decrease the number of taxi vouchers - \$25,000

The one area in which there will be an increase is in funding for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. An additional \$150,000 is budgeted for next year.

There is no proposed additional decrease to the census at Laguna Honda.

The department-wide budget shortfalls will impact many of San Francisco's low-income disabled residents by targeting services that assist the disabled and elderly.

Council Member Norma Block asked if there would be reductions in the psychiatric units at the jailhouse where a large portion of the mentally ill are currently housed. Anthony Wagner responded that there would not be any proposals at this time.

Testimony from The Public And Community Organizations

Planning for Elders in the Central City Marie Jobling, Director

Ms Jobling asked everyone to think about what ordinary people in this city face in terms of balancing their future. The stories of "Joe" and "Mary," who both depend on government-subsidized programs for their basic survival needs, were presented on a power point presentation. Each are faced with all the various cuts in services provided by the Senior Centers, emergency home care programs, home delivered meals, adult day health, Paratransit taxi scrip, Medi-Cal coverage, including prescription drugs that are necessary for their survival. Without these services, they and others like them will suffer. Departments need to look at the cumulative impacts on individuals rather than impacts on the department itself.

- Marie Jobling asked the MDC to help the Mayor see the entire picture of how cuts in SSI and Medicaid, coupled with local budget cuts to safety net services would affect seniors and people with disabilities. Let the Mayor know that it is not right that departments are trying to balance the budget on those who can least afford to fight back and that is unfair to people like Joe and Mary, who could not survive in San Francisco if these multiple cuts were to occur.
- Marie Jobling stated that San Francisco is a city where people care about one another and telling the story of people and pain would make a difference. A few key events will take place regarding this issue. For more information, contact: Planning for Elders in the Central City's Hot Line: 415-703-0188 x 313 or email: [*info@planningforelders.org*](mailto:info@planningforelders.org).

Mental Health Association of SF Madigan Shive

- Opposes cuts vociferously, would like to send the budget back for revisions to look closely at where one can find other ways of capturing these funds so that cuts are not done on the backs of people with disabilities.
- Wants the MDC to alert the Mayor to the concerns about the approved budget cuts.
- People will be impacted on a monumental level in terms of losing access to housing, social services that keep people with psychiatric disabilities from being on the streets and mental health needs that already are not being met.
- Thanks the council for prioritizing this issue, to save these services and not allow these cuts to take place in the way that they are being proposed.

Delphine Brody (Formerly homeless)

- Has first hand experience with homelessness and the Mental Health System.
- Cuts will devastate low-income people with mental illness and homeless people in particular, and people with substance abuse problems.
- People will begin to leave the city with all their contributions.
- Would like the MDC to encourage the Mayor not to allow these cuts to go forward

Joanna Hagerty (Formerly homeless and now a tenant advocate with the Mental Health Association)

- First concern: How will the cuts affect behavioral health integration?
- Second concern: People with mental health disabilities are so under-served, any cuts would leave them out of touch completely.
- Would like to urge the Mayor to set a new precedent by doing something new: Cutting Salaries! The airlines had to do it, why can't we?

L.S. Wilson – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Workgroup

- Opposes cuts, cannot see the logic behind closing the doors of these programs that have made a positive difference in so many people's lives.
- Doesn't understand how priorities are set when health service cuts are at the top of the list.
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse has been cut year after year to the point of closing doors on services such as: Central City Hospitality House Drop-In Center
- Mental Health System has been in crisis for years – it cannot provide basic services and support for people with psychiatric disabilities.
- Rather than cut away parts of the Health System, we should be trying to add on.
- Tell our Mayor that we want to help people, and that the proposed budget cuts offer nothing but hurt to those who have little or nothing.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Workgroup opposes the closing of the MHRF.

Machiko Saito

- Speaking as a concerned citizen / SF resident / US citizen who has had to advocate for herself and deal with the mental health system over the last 14 years.
- Suffers from mental disorders and a history of substance abuse problems.
- Was not provided with adequate resources or support on how to deal with these issues and was institutionalized, hospitalized, arrested and completely misdirected in health care.

- Today has been clean and sober for 14 years. She is able to find housing, employment but it is definitely a struggle.
- Recently, friends have died from drug overdoses; they have been institutionalized, and arrested.
- Through personal experience, she has found that it is almost impossible to advocate for oneself to get the resources needed due to programs that are in jeopardy of being cut, such as "Suicide Crisis Hot Line" which has helped to keep her alive.
- As inadequate, insufficient and unavailable as these systems are, these programs made a difference in staying alive as opposed to other friends who are either in jail or dead.
- Would like to thank the MDC from the hundreds of people who have benefited from the limited resources available.

Joseph McCowan

- Supports all the issues of previous presentations and feels it's a very serious time for cutbacks.
- Government has put money and politics before God and humanity in every aspect of society.
- Mental Health clients, supported by Senior Peer Programs, Disabled Veterans Program and Laguna Honda's Drug and Rehabilitation Program often get institutionalized in the system as felony convictions and are placed in prisons where the systems forces them into a criminal state.
- Their problems escalate into violence because that's the only resort left.

Darwin Diaz, Mental Health Activist since 1966

- A "graduate" of Napa State College (Napa Hospital) with SSI credential. Involved with Spiritmenders.
- One of the original advocates to have MHRF built, which took a long time but now the situation will be changing to where people who need to be hospitalized will be sent out of town.

San Francisco Network of Mental Health Clients - Mark Adamek

- Requests that current cuts in the Health budget not be carried out.
- One of the community casualties will be the SF Network of Mental Health Clients, which is run for and by mental health clients. Due to lack of sufficient community support and funding, the center will be shut down.
- Would like the Mayor to realize the importance of keeping the city's agencies open, especially the city's non-profit organizations which are struggling very hard to make a difference by providing free assistance to all of San Francisco's low income and mental health consumers.

San Francisco Network of Mental Health Clients, Co-Executive Director of Network's Project Julia Diaz - Vice President and Treasurer

- Formerly homeless, had been attacked and left with low self esteem when being housed in inappropriate programs.
- Would like the Mayor to know the importance of continuing to have the freedom of choice, to determine one's own form of treatment and to add strong elements of consumer-driven and consumer- provided services including peer case management, self help and drop-in services.
- Since there will be more untreated, depressed people on the streets, helping oneself as well as others is a very major aid in recovery.

Independent Living Resource Center - Victoria Tedder,

- The proposed program and service cuts are going to translate into more homelessness.
- Without government help, people will be paying for services out of their own pocket, with less money, many will not be able to pay their rent which will then result in eviction and homelessness.
- Jessie Lorenz, ILRC, is advocating around the state of California addressing the budget cuts. Interested people may contact Jessie at 415. 543-6222.

5.40

/03

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

Walter Park
Council Secretary

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of

Mayor's Disability Council

Friday, 21 March 2003

1:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 400

1:00 p.m.

- 1 Roll call
- 2 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
- 3 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes

1:10

- 4 Public comment on items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of MDC.
(Each speaker limited to two minutes.)
- 5 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Chair
- 6 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Director
- 7 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs

1:30

- 8 INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEM: Continued discussion of the impact of proposed local and state budget cuts on persons with disabilities. Representatives of State Government have been invited to report on the proposed state budget cuts. Mayor's Office on Disability Report to be considered for possible adoption.
(1 hour).

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2:30

- 9 INFORMATION ITEM: Beaumont Foundation Computer Grants: Almost \$400 million in computer equipment is available. Any individuals with disabilities may apply directly by telephone at: 1-866-505-2677. Organizations may apply through the website at: <http://www.bmtfoundation.com/grants> Grant applications are accepted until March 31. Hurry! (5 minutes)
- 10 DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence.
- 11 Public comment on items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of MDC. (Each speaker limited to two minutes.)
- 12 DISCUSSION ITEM: Member requests for future agenda items.
- 13 DISCUSSION ITEM: Councilors' comments and announcements.
- 14 ADJOURNMENT in honor of Jim Donald, a disability leader who successfully fought for accessible public transit, accessibility regulations, and inclusion of persons with disabilities in international human rights.

[Estimated times are only guidelines.]

For persons with disabilities or others who cannot attend in person, meetings are accessible (open-captioned) on **SFGTV** Channel 26.
Call 557-4293 for listings.

Telephone Bridge at (415) 554-9632.

Members of the public who wish to listen to and/ or participate in this meeting but are unable to physically attend, may call into the Council's 'Telephone Bridge' at 554-9632. Up to thirty persons may listen on this conference line, and may be recognized to speak during public comment periods. Call 554-9632 after 1:00 p.m. and a staff person will handle requests to speak.

Mayor's Disability Council

Accessible Meeting Information

City Hall is accessible to persons using wheelchairs and others with disabilities. Assistive listening devices are available and meetings are open-captioned in the hearing room. Agendas are available in large print. Materials in alternative formats and/or American Sign Language interpreters will be made available upon request. Please make your request for alternative format or other accommodations, to the **Acting Council Clerk, Jada Jackson, 554-6789 (V), 554 6799 (TTY) at least 72 hours** prior to the meeting to help ensure availability.

The nearest accessible BART station is Civic Center Plaza at the intersection of Market, Grove, and Hyde Streets. The accessible MUNI Metro lines are the J, K, L, M, and N (Civic Center Station or Van Ness Avenue Station). MUNI bus lines serving the area are the 47 Van Ness, 9 San Bruno, and the 6, 7, 71 Haight/ Noriega. Accessible curbside parking is available on 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place and Grove Street.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based scented products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

For inquiries or requests for accommodations,
please call 554-6789 (V), 554-6799 (TTY)

Mayor's Disability Council Accessible Meeting Information

Regular Meetings – third Fridays (please confirm dates):

Next meeting dates: April 18 and May 16

Know Your Rights Under the Sunshine Ordinance:

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall by mail to Board of Supervisors, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, S.F. 94102 by phone at (415) 554-7724 (V), (415) 554-5227 (TTY), or (415) 554-7854 by fax, or by email to Donna.hall@sfgov.org. Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Hall or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at <http://www.sfgov.org/sunshine>

Public archive:

Videotapes of the three most recent MDC meetings are made available ten days after meeting date in the Main Public Library. Written minutes in accessible formats are available at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300, San Francisco, California.

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Please help us keep our mailing list current:

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- ☐ Braille _____
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- ☐ Please delete my name from your list.
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Return marked sheet to:

Mayor's Disability Council, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300, San Francisco, CA 94102
or Fax: 415. 554-6159



Mayor's Office on Disability

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Walter Park
Director

Upcoming Meetings:

Mayor's Disability Council

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94102
Friday, 18 April 2003
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MDC Programmatic Access Committee

Rose Resnick Lighthouse
214 Van Ness Avenue
2nd Floor Conference Room
San Francisco, CA 94102
Friday, 4 April 2003
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MDC Employment Committee

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 421
San Francisco, CA 94102
Friday, 11 April 2003
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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MDC Physical Access Committee

War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 304
San Francisco, CA 94102
Wednesday, 16 April 2003
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MDC Executive Committee

War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 320
Conference Room
San Francisco, CA 94102
Tuesday, 18 March 2003
Tuesday, 25 March 2003
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

Mayor's Disability Council

Minutes

21 March 2003

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1:15 p.m.

1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Vincent Behan, Ed Evans, Elizabeth Grigsby, Denise Senhaux. **Quorum present.**

Excused Absent: Norma Block, Michael Kwok

Absent: August Longo

Mayor's Office on Disability: Walter Park, Director; Ken Stein, Program Administrator and Acting Council Clerk.

Chair, Ed Evans called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. The Council Members send their deepest condolences to any military personnel that may have been injured or killed in the latest action on the war with Iraq.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the March 21, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) meeting was approved.

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of February 21, 2003 were approved.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

♦ Orchid Visuni, Assistant for Deaf Services at the San Francisco Public Library commented that the Deaf Community has just begun to use a wireless email pager system to alert the community should there be a war or an earthquake. Currently, deaf people cannot hear the sirens in an emergency situation. She recommends the City install a wireless pager system.

Walter Park, Director of MOD responded that MOD would confer with the Office of Emergency Services on the type of notification system that could be implemented.

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Ed Evans reported that a letter has been written to Mayor Willie Brown concerning the State and Federal budget as it affects the people with disabilities in San Francisco.

Chair Ed Evans will meet with Michael Burns, Director of Municipal Transportation Authority on Tuesday to discuss issues relating to disabled persons and funding for disabled activities in San Francisco.

6 REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Walter Park reported on the following:

- MOD has been contacted by attorneys representing people with disabilities who have been cited or arrested, regarding what is being done to meet the needs of people with disabilities who are being cited or arrested. The San Francisco Police Department spent a great deal of time preparing for disability rights demonstrations that occurred in San Francisco during October, 2001, therefore are well prepared in accommodating people with disabilities.

- MOD communicated with Sergeant Mike Sullivan, ADA Coordinator for the San Francisco Police Department who provides accessible paratransit paddy wagons to the accessible detention site located at Pier 27. There is water, oxygen, accessible telephones and a TTY set up at the site. Service animals will be kept with the owner of the animal. Wheelchairs will also be kept with the person cited or detained.
- The Asian Art Museum opened on March 20, 2003. MOD has conducted architectural reviews during March and has issued a temporary certificate of occupancy and approved it for issuance by the Department of Building Inspection. MOD will work with the Asian Art Museum to clean up any remaining punch list items.
- MOD and Chair Ed Evans attended an inspection at Union Square.
- MOD is preparing recommendations on the Transition Plan for 2004. Authorization of curb ramps will be the first priority in implementing the transition plan. MOD is in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Public Works.
- MOD's assistive technology project on the accessible information kiosk in City Hall is set to open during the fall of 2003.
- MOD met with the ADA Coordinator from Seattle, Washington's County Government and noted that Seattle experiences the same problems and implements the same solutions as San Francisco. Seattle has some of the best documentation process in terms of grievance procedures and other types of policies.
- On behalf of Mayor Willie Brown, MOD welcomed The National Association of ADA Coordinators last week while they were visiting San Francisco. A reception will be planned for them at City Hall when they return to visit next year.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCESS COMMITTEE

Harry Mar, Chair of the Programmatic Access Committee reported that the Programmatic Access Committee met on Friday, March 7, 2003.

The meeting focused on website accessibility with Barbara Wenger and Tania Temkin from the UCSF Statistics Center (a federally funded rehabilitation research and training center with a focus on disability, statistical information) presenting an overview of the Center's activities. The Center provides general information and referral, technical assistance on disability statistics and have prepared numerous reports and abstracts for the community. The Center wants to be more of a resource to the disabled community by researching information needed to make a website accessible.

Information and suggestions on website appearance, navigation and website content offered by the committee were well received by the UCSF Statistics Center.

Chair Harry Mar would like to thank Ken Stein, MOD Program Administrator for arranging this meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled on Friday, April 4, 2003 at the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind, from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

REPORT FROM THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Walter Park reported for Richard Rothman that the Department of Human Resources has appointed a new person to attend the Employment Committee Meeting. The Committee has worked with the Department of Human Resources to create a new system for Rule 115 hiring. The City has frozen hiring due to the budget and will not be using the system for now.

The next meeting is scheduled on Friday, April 11, 2003, City Hall, Room 421 from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

REPORT FROM THE PHYSICAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Ed Evans, Chair of the Physical Access Committee reported that the Physical Access Committee met on Wednesday, March 19, 2003.

Discussion on issues and complaints related to the Department of Building Inspection included:

- o Octavia Boulevard Project
- o Asian Art Museum
- o Recreation and Parks Department – Swimming Pools

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 10, 2003 at the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 304 from 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

8 CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACT OF PROPOSED LOCAL AND STATE BUDGET CUTS ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN INVITED TO REPORT ON THE PROPOSED STATE BUDGET CUTS. MAYOR'S OFFICE ON DISABILITY REPORT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR POSSIBLE ADOPTION.

- ♦ Ms. Elmy Bermejo, District Representative to Senator John Burton's Office in San Francisco reported that most of the news on a statewide level is grim. Since 1998 - 1999, the largest dollar increases have gone to K – 12 Education, Health Care, Higher Education and Tax Relief. According to the California Budget Project, nearly one fifth of the increase in general fund spending between 1998 -1999 and 2002 – 2003 have gone to reimbursing counties and cities for revenues lost because of the 1998 Vehicle License Fee reduction. Spending for CalWorks and related programs have remained at the bare minimum required by Federal law. The general fund spending for programs administered by the Resources, Environmental Protection,

Transportation and Housing and Technology and Commerce Agencies actually declined over the same period despite the fact that there were 2.2 million people more in the State of California.

The Legislative Analyst Office is forecasting that tax relief will remain the fastest growing part of the budget between 2001, 2002 and through 2007-2008. It is also forecasting that the percent increase in spending for CalWorks and education will lag behind total spending growth.

Ms Bermejo is aware that the concerns of the MDC Council has been on proposed city and state cuts stating the impact on people with disabilities, especially in the reduction of SSI and Medi-Cal checks, durable medical care, hospice and funding for adult day centers. All of these proposed cuts are still under review through the subcommittee process. Senator John Burton is committed to assuring that these programs will be preserved.

Ed Evans inquired if there was support in the Senate that will allow people that are seniors and disabled to live respectively in their homes.

Ms. Bermejo responded that Senator John Burton is committed to ensuring those who are most vulnerable (seniors and disabled) will be protected from losing services.

For more updated information, please contact the following:

- o Senator John Burton: 415. 557- 1300
- o Assemblymember Leland Yee : 415. 557-2312.
- o Assemblymember Mark Leno: 415. 557-3013
- o Senator Jackie Speier: 415. 557-7857

- ♦ Walter Park stated that there are two draft documents and a letter from the Council to Mayor Willie Brown. See attached Letter to Mayor Brown, March 21, 2003 and “Budget Hearing Report and Recommendations”. The “Summary of Testimony” is available upon request.
- ♦ Assemblymember Mark Leno thanked the Council for the invitation to speak at this meeting.
- ♦ He reported the following:
 - o His office is to serve the people with disabilities as we go through this budget crisis over the next few months.
 - o During his first fourteen days in office, the budget deficit grew by \$14 billion.
 - o The deficit is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$26 - \$34 billion. After the April income taxes have been received, there will be the May revision.
 - o The nature of the deficit is based on whether there is enough revenue to meet the expenditures.
 - o The big battle over the past few months has been over the Vehicle License

Fee. Of the City's \$320 million deficit, \$120 million (a third of the total deficit) is represented in these fees. For 50 years (1948-1998), the tax, which is 2% of the purchase price of the car, was paid by the purchaser. In 1998, in good economic times, the State passed legislation to use its general fund to cover 2/3 of the 2% tax. The purchaser only had to pay 1/3 of the 2% tax. The 1998 legislation included language that in hard economic times, the entire 2% would have to be paid by the car owner. But the Governor's proposed budget not only did not restore the requirement for the entire 2% to go back to the car owner, but also, it did not propose to continue the backfill to local governments of the State's General Fund, which would represent a \$120 million loss to local coffers.

- o A few proposals in the Governor's January budget was the elimination of the Senior Companion Program, Brown Bag Grocery Program to Low Income Seniors, the reduction of services by 15% to the Adult Day Health Centers and the reduction of the grants from \$778 to \$708 per month but these actions were not taken.
- o One approach to saving billions of dollars would be the early release of offenders of non-violent, non-serious, non-lifers and non-strikers (people who commit crimes such as petty theft, driving under the influence or forgery and fraud). Redefining sentencing structures so that non-violent and non-serious offenses would be paroled rather than being sent to the State Penitentiary would save another \$50 million. Releasing the aged population of those over 55 or 65 would save \$25,000 a year. Looking at these and other cuts could help save the social services necessary for seniors and the people with disabilities to sustain their quality of life.
- o Other approaches to raising revenue would be to increase the sales tax by one percent; restoring the upper income tax rate from 9% to 11%; adding \$1.10 on each package of cigarette; allowing cities and counties to vote on consideration of a local income tax.
- o It is critical that waste be eliminated and revenue be increased to balance the budget.

- ◆ Ed Evans asked if there was a way that Assembly Members and the Senate could join together to preserve the present ability to serve fragile members of the community who may lose their In-Home Support Services or a portion of their SSI (which will put them into nursing homes costing the State more money).

Assemblymember Mark Leno responded that when incomes go up, more tax dollars are received, when incomes fall, tax dollars fall. One would need to look at the structural tax system on these volatile incomes.

- ◆ Ed Evans stated that he was against a sales tax increase due to the fact that it would affect the seniors and the disabled population. He favors taxing luxury items such as cigarettes, cars, boats and RV's.
- ◆ Ed Evans pointed out that many seniors and people with disabilities are not able to get out of their homes, thus do their shopping on the Internet. Taxing people who shop on the Internet would pose a huge problem for them.

- ♦ Ed Evans suggested some type of legislation be made to require cable companies and satellite companies operating within San Francisco and the State of California, to carry Local, State and Federal government channels.

Assemblymember Mark Leno recognized Chair Ed Evans's suggestions and replied that his staff is currently working on the government channels.

- ♦ Ed Evans thanked Assemblymember Mark Leno for attending the meeting.
- ♦ Assemblyman Mark Leno's office is available for assistance at: 415. 557-3013.

9 BEAUMONT FOUNDATION COMPUTER GRANTS: ALMOST \$400 MILLION IN COMPUTER EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE. ANY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES MAY APPLY DIRECTLY BY TELEPHONE AT: 1-866-505-2677. ORGANIZATIONS MAY APPLY THROUGH THE WEBSITE AT: <http://www.bmtfoundation.com/grants> GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED UNTIL MARCH 31. HURRY!

- ♦ Walter Park urged interested participants to take advantage of this offer.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

12 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No requests.

13 COUNCILORS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

See adjournment.

14 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. in honor of Jim Donald, a disability leader who successfully fought for accessible public transit, accessibility regulations and inclusion of persons with disabilities in international human rights.

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Edward Evans
Chair

Walter Park
Council Secretary

March 21, 2002

Honorable Mayor Willie L. Brown
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 200
San Francisco, CA
94102

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MAY 22 2003

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Dear Mayor Brown,

Following the February 21 Mayor's Disability Council Hearing on the impacts of proposed local and state budget cuts on persons with disabilities, the Mayor's Office on Disability prepared a summary report and has made recommendations based on that testimony. We are forwarding this report for your consideration, along with its endorsement by the MDC.

People with disabilities should not have to beg to have their lives protected. And so we are not begging, but we are urging you to protect and preserve programs serving people with disabilities at all costs. Because most people with disabilities are not able to work full time and by and large have low incomes, more than any other group, we must rely on public health and human service programs and subsidies.

The disability community knows perhaps better than most that we are in perilous economic times. Indeed, in recent years, it is the disability community that has already borne much of the brunt of the post 911 economy -- from lost jobs, to critical monies being sidetracked from social programs serving the disabled and frail elderly. Whereas historically, social service organizations have relied to a large extent on foundation grants and charitable giving, since September 11, these funds have dried up and in many cases, all but disappeared. As a consequence, individuals with disabilities and the agencies serving them need government funding more than ever, and have no fallback when these funds are cut.

What emerged at the hearing is that the cumulative impact of proposed state and local budgetary cutbacks would damage the lives of many and take the lives of some. We all need

to think not only in terms of immediate savings but also in terms of the social and human costs of such actions.

We urge the City to look for other sources of revenue and other places to cut; to balance the budget perhaps from salary savings, as well as from cutbacks in other departments which will not so severely impact the lives of those least able to afford the cost. We urge you to continue to explore creative ways of increasing and preserving revenues -- options which might include everything from cutting top city salaries to taxing large businesses.

If one thing was made clear at the hearing, it is that there needs to be some protected sources of money dedicated to programs serving people with disabilities. Such funding streams exist for MUNI and the Library, but not for people with disabilities. In dealing with the immediate budgetary crisis, we urge you also to think down the road, so that every time there is a budgetary crisis in the future, we will all have the security of knowing that people with disabilities will not be brought once again to the chopping block.

We join the Mayor's Office on Disability in recommending, as noted in the attached report, that the City:

1. Create a dedicated funding stream serving people with disabilities in order to ensure that there is a baseline of equitable funding for direct services for persons with disabilities.
2. Eliminate cuts to program with MediCaid or MediCal funding which, as noted, will *increase* local costs.
3. At DHS, use General Fund savings retained from increased state payments for IHSS salaries for services to the same disabled population.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Edward Evans, Chair
Mayor's Disability Council

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Mayor's Disability Council

Budget Hearing Report And Recommendations

Introduction

February 21, 2003, the Mayor's Disability Council held a Budget Hearing on the impacts of potential local and state budget cuts on persons with disabilities. The hearing accepted testimony from six City departments, one community organization, and many individuals. Representatives from the City Departments of Public Health, Human Services, Aging and Adult Services, the Mayor's Budget Office and Muni were invited to present information on proposed budget cuts and to hear comments from Commissioners, the public, and representatives of community organizations. A representative from Planning for Elders in the Central City gave a report on the cumulative impact of these cuts on both seniors and persons with disabilities.

The Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) is the public input body to the Mayor on matters of concern specifically to people with disabilities. Although individuals with disabilities and their representatives have testified before other City bodies during this current budget process, the February 21 MDC hearing represented the only opportunity for the impacts on individuals with disabilities to be considered overall and in their entirety. Attached to this report are summaries of testimony made by departments and the statements of individual presenters.

The session was introduced by the Director of the Mayor's Office on Disability, who pointed out that the budget crisis this year is unprecedented in recent history in its severity. The crisis reflects the economic recession, which is deeper and more persistent than most predicted a year ago or two years ago. Overall, local revenues have fallen by about \$315 million dollars, which is about one-quarter of discretionary local revenue. This will have devastating impacts on local services, even with the best of budget planning.

Summary of Testimony

Several main themes emerged from the afternoon's proceedings:

1. Cuts Will Have Significant Negative Impacts on People with Disabilities

First and foremost, although departmental cuts are being made piecemeal, when taken cumulatively, and in conjunction with proposed state and Federal budget cuts, the impact on persons with disabilities will be drastic, and in many cases life-threatening. Because people with disabilities have historically little employment, they are particularly dependent on public benefits and services, and will bear a disproportionate share of the reduction in those services. The cuts under discussion will increase poverty, homelessness, morbidity, and mortality.

Throughout the MDC hearing, the public repeatedly expressed the opinion that, for whatever reasons, the deepest cuts are in the direct services needed by individuals with physical and psychiatric disabilities, and the other most vulnerable and needy populations in our community. Speaker after speaker said that the concomitant impacts on all San Franciscans will be drastic, both socially and economically.

"It really is about people losing access to the housing and the fine, very thin network of social services that keep people with psychiatric disabilities from being on our streets."

2. Unfunded Mandate Puts Seniors and Non-elderly People with Disabilities in Competition for the same (reduced) dollars

Testifiers from the Department and the public noted that under State law, the newly-configured Department of Aging and Adult Services has been given a mandate to expand its service from seniors alone to non-elders persons with disabilities – at the same time that its funding is being cut. This unfunded mandate to serve adults with disabilities has been passed along to the community agencies who actually provide the direct services. These agencies have historically served seniors only, and are now being asked to provide services to non-elderly adults with disabilities (people who were previously locked out of the system), with less funding. As a result, agencies testified they are being asked to reduce services to existing clients in order to serve new clients, whom they are not yet equipped to serve.

3. Community Care Funding Equity

Some stated their opinion that the issue of equity between funding for institutional care and community services is critical. Namely, that the level of funding for community-based services should have parity or should increase in relation to funding for institutional care, following the Olmstead principles. Some testified that proposed cuts would reverse this formula, and that this runs counter to societal goals, as well as Olmstead.

At the same time there was strong testimony by some opposing converting MHRF into a residential facility.

4. Cascading State Budget Issues

Impacts of proposed City cuts need to be assessed in light of proposed State cuts, which would decrease SSI checks from \$758 to \$708 per month; eliminate nearly a dozen Medi-Cal "Optional" benefits, including critically-needed physical therapy, medical supplies, etc; and would eliminate ten other medically necessary Medi-Cal benefits, including durable medical equipment, hospice care, hearing aids, etc.

Compounding this, the State is proposing to cut the *California Aged and Disabled 133% of Poverty Program*, which for many people has been a literal lifeline to paid health and long term care benefits. Persons newly ineligible for that program will no longer have access to the IHSS Program and Medi-Cal. In that case, people will become responsible for co-payments and deductibles for Medicare, averaging more than \$200 per month -- an impossibility for people with an income of only \$967 per month. It was estimated that these state health cuts will affect over 1,000 low-income persons with disabilities, resulting in increased demand for City-funded emergency care.

The State's plan to cut funding for Adult Day Health Centers by 15% may lead to closure of centers, eliminating the Brown Bag programs that provide food to supplement shrinking income.

*"Please tell our Mayor, we want to help people,
and this proposed budget is nothing but hurt
to those who have little or nothing."*

5. Public Health

The Department of Health is continuing to invest more money in housing with support services, so that people with disabilities will have an alternative to institutionalization. A number of other programs, however, that have enabled people to live independently in the community, including Day Treatment Programs and Mental Health Programs, are being drastically cut.

One testifier stated that the level of financial and policy support of institutional care when compared with community-based long-term care services is not equitable. Efforts to aggressively draw down state and federal funding for Laguna Honda have not been matched with a similar commitment to draw down Medi-Cal funds for community-based services.

*"I know you guys have priorities,
I don't understand how you set those priorities,
when you don't have health services at the top of your list."*

6. Aging and Adult Services

The AAS Commission approved the reduction in budget to be shared 55% by the contract agencies and 45% by the Department for cuts in General Fund and Parking Tax revenues. Functionally these cuts mean that many people with disabilities will lose contracted services of case managers, neighborhood meal sites, home delivered meals, and emergency homecare.

7. Transit

It is anticipated that there will be no reductions in fixed route or paratransit services. However, it is proposed that taxi scrip costs will increase from \$3.00 per book to \$4.00 per book, lift van fares will increase from \$.40 to \$1.00 per trip, and group van fares will be increased.

Recommendations:

1. Create a Dedicated Funding Stream Serving People with Disabilities

Unlike other protected groups and interests in the City, including transit, the public library system, children's and seniors' services, there is no dedicated funding stream for programs serving people with disabilities. A number of disability advocates have discussed the need for some benchmark in the system so that the City assures a baseline of equitable funding for direct services for persons with disabilities, as it does for families with children or seniors who have disabilities.

*"Mental health and substance abuse has been cut year after year,
-- the mental health system as we know it has been in crisis for years.
We can't provide basic services and support for people with psychiatric disabilities now."*

2. Eliminate cuts to program with MediCaid or MediCal funding in which a \$1 cut in local funding would result in a \$4 to \$5 in state and Federal match.

Such cuts will *increase* local costs.

3. At DHS, use General Fund savings retained from increased state payments for IHSS salaries for services to the same disabled population.

The City expects to receive \$4.4 million from the State earmarked for minimum salaries of IHSS workers already being paid. These funds, retained at DHS should be used to benefit the disabled population for which they were originally intended.

San Francisco

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Edward Evans
Chairs

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

Agenda

NOTICE OF CANCELLED MEETING

Susan Mizner
Acting Director
Mayor's Office on Disability

Mayor's Disability Council 18 April 2003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the meeting of the Mayor's Disability Council scheduled for Friday, April 18, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400, City Hall, San Francisco, California has been **cancelled**. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, May 16, 2003.

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Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

Susan Mizner
Acting Council Secretary

AGENDA Regular Meeting of Mayor's Disability Council Friday, 16 May 2003 1:00 p.m. City Hall, Room 400

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1:00 p.m.

- 1 Roll call
- 2 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
- 3 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes

1:10

- 4 Public comment on items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of MDC.
(Each speaker limited to two minutes.)
- 5 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Chair
- 6 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Acting Director
- 7 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs

1:30

- 8 INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM: City of San Francisco Transition Plan Update. Presentation by Richard Skaaf, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office on Disability. Presentation by City Architect Yomi Agunbiade regarding funding for Transition Plan proposed projects. Comments from the public are invited.
(1 hour).

2:30

BREAK

2:40

- 9 INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM: Proposed Revisions to the City's Standard Curb Ramp Drawings and Specifications. Presentation by Kevin Jensen, ADA Coordinator, Department of Public Works. Comments from the public are invited. (45 minutes)

3:25

- 10 INFORMATION ITEM: Community Leadership and Advocacy In Mentorship! program. Presentation by Elissa Berrol, ILRC "Claim!" Program Coordinator, about the CLAIM Program, a ten-month program designed to provide leadership and advocacy training for people with disabilities from underserved communities. (15 minutes).

- 11 DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence.

- 12 Public comment on items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of MDC. (Each speaker limited to two minutes.)

- 13 DISCUSSION ITEM: Member requests for future agenda items.

- 14 DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member comments and announcements.

4:00

- 15 ADJOURNMENT

[Estimated times are only guidelines.]

For persons with disabilities or others who cannot attend in person, meetings are accessible (open-captioned) on **SFGTV** Channel 26.
Call 557-4293 for listings.

MDC Meetings are video-streamed live and are also archived at:
http://www.sfgov.org/site/sfgtv_index.asp?id=5993

Telephone Bridge at (415) 554-9632.

Members of the public who wish to listen to and/ or participate in this meeting but are unable to physically attend, may call into the Council's 'Telephone Bridge' at 554-9632. Up to thirty persons may listen on this conference line, and may be recognized to speak during public comment periods. Call 554-9632 after 1:00 p.m. and a staff person will handle requests to speak.

Mayor's Office on Disability



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director

Upcoming Meetings:

Mayor's Disability Council

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94102

Date To Be Announced

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MDC Programmatic Access Committee

Rose Resnick Lighthouse

214 Van Ness Avenue

2nd Floor Conference Room

San Francisco, CA 94102

Friday, 6 June 2003

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MAY 7 2003

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MDC Employment Committee - **CANCELLED**

Friday, 13 June 2003

MDC Physical Access Committee - **CANCELLED**

Wednesday, 21 May 2003

MDC Executive Committee

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 82

San Francisco, CA 94102

Tuesday, 20 May 2003

and

Tuesday, 3 June 2003

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Mayor's Disability Council

Accessible Meeting Information

City Hall is accessible to persons using wheelchairs and others with disabilities. Assistive listening devices are available and meetings are open-captioned in the hearing room. Agendas are available in large print. Materials in alternative formats and/or American Sign Language interpreters will be made available upon request. Please make your request for alternative format or other accommodations, to the **Acting Council Clerk, Josie J. Lee, 554-6789 (V), 554 6799 (TTY) at least 72 hours** prior to the meeting to help ensure availability.

The nearest accessible BART station is Civic Center Plaza at the intersection of Market, Grove, and Hyde Streets. The accessible MUNI Metro lines are the J, K, L, M, and N (Civic Center Station or Van Ness Avenue Station). MUNI bus lines serving the area are the 47 Van Ness, 9 San Bruno, and the 6, 7, 71 Haight/ Noriega. Accessible curbside parking is available on 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place and Grove Street.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based scented products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

For inquiries or requests for accommodations,
please call 554-6789 (V), 554-6799 (TTY)

Regular Meetings – third Fridays (please confirm dates):

Next meeting dates: To Be Announced

Know Your Rights Under the Sunshine Ordinance:

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall by mail to Board of Supervisors, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, S.F. 94102 by phone at (415) 554-7724 (V), (415) 554-5227 (TTY), or (415) 554-7854 by fax, or by email to Donna.hall@sfgov.org. Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Hall or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at <http://www.sfgov.org/sunshine>

Public archive:

Videotapes of the three most recent MDC meetings are made available ten days after meeting date in the Main Public Library. Written minutes in accessible formats are available at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300, San Francisco, California.

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or Fax: 415. 554-6159**

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

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Mayor's Disability Council Minutes 16 May 2003

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1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Vincent Behan, Norma Block, Ed Evans, Elizabeth Grigsby, Michael Kwok, August Longo.

Excused Absent: Denise Senhaux

Mayor's Office on Disability: Susan Mizner, Acting Director; Richard Skaff, Deputy Director; Ken Stein, Program Administrator and Josie J. Lee, Acting Council Clerk.

Chair, Ed Evans called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and announced that due to Channel 26 scheduling conflicts, the MDC Meeting Broadcast would be delayed until 8:00 P.M. that evening. MDC meetings are video-streamed and archived at http://www.sfgov.org/site/sfgtv_index.asp?id=13353

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda of the May 16, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) meeting was approved.

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of March 21, 2003 were approved.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ Walter Park, former Director of the Mayor's Office on Disability, thanked people who had written and phoned expressing their appreciation of his service with the City. During the year 2002-2003, MOD went through a very difficult time with 40% of key staff out on leave. Staff support is extremely important, and without it, MOD cannot fulfill its goals.

Walter Park stated that the MDC has important work to do. Two months ago, a letter from MOD was drafted to Mayor Brown about the budget and its impact on people with disabilities and seniors. That letter was delivered a week before Mr. Park's termination. There has not yet been a response to that letter.

Mr. Park stated that another issue for the MDC is the apparent dismantling of the Mayor's Office on Disability. During the past 3 years, MOD's budget included about \$4.8 million each year to complete physical projects (curb ramps) and programmatic contracted projects (training) and for the operation of the office itself. This year, \$1.5 million was returned to the City, leaving approximately \$2.5 million for MOD to work with. As MOD continues to have contact with city departments and the disability community, the demands for technical service, complaint resolution and policy development will continue to grow and MOD will need to deal with them. With the loss of two staff positions, (Deputy Director for Programmatic Access and Assistant to the Director), the office has been cut drastically. It is important to maintain a 50-50 balance between the Programmatic Access and the Physical Access. Without the technical assistance offered through MOD, the City will continue to receive complaints and lawsuits from disability advocates.

He urged MDC members to voice their concerns to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors regarding the budget of the Mayor's Office on Disability. It has taken over three years of hard work for MOD to reach a certain level and if it falls back the next year, it would take a long time to reach this level again.

Mr. Park thanked everyone for his or her recent support.

- ♦ Bonnie Milstein, a partner in the Civil Rights Law and Consulting Firm of Magar and Milstein said that San Francisco is not in the forefront of cities that have accomplished the most in regard to disability rights. With the very talented staff working at the Mayor's Office on Disability, she urges the MDC to aid in restoring the necessary supportive staff positions at the Mayor's Office on Disability.
- ♦ Bruce Oka, a long term Civil Rights / Disability Advocate for the City of San Francisco said that he was proud of the fact that the Department of Health and Human Services began work on the Transition Plan and the Self Evaluation in 1983. During his term at the Office of Civil Rights, his team also initiated plans for providing accessibility to City Hall and to the Department of Public Health. Although San Francisco has a long way to go for accessible and affordable housing, his personal travel experiences have led him to believe that San Francisco has a good reputation as being one of the most workable and livable cities in the country for persons with disabilities. People travel to San Francisco to learn how to do what we do here. He believes that leadership from the MDC

is critical and that MOD could improve its image in continuing to do a better job in reaching out to the public.

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Ed Evans announced a free workshop on "Breaking Down Barriers to Better Fitness" an exercise option for people with physical disabilities to be offered at Alta Bates Medical Center, 2450 Ashby Avenue in Berkeley on June 5, 2003 from 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM. RSVP by May 29, 2003 by contacting Ann Freeman at (510) 204-4407. Website address: www.altabatesummit.org.

He reported that Council Member Denise Senhaux is unable to attend today's meeting due to her employer not granting her permission to attend.

He noted the deterioration of sidewalks in all neighborhoods of San Francisco. He would like to invite a representative from the Department of Public Works to discuss the possibility of property owners repairing these sidewalks.

6 REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Susan Mizner, reported on the following:

- MOD has been going through major changes in the previous months. Walter Park is no longer the Director at MOD nor employed with the City and County of San Francisco.
- She thanked Walter Park for all of his work at MOD benefiting the disability community and the City of San Francisco. His vision and leadership are an inspiration to all. MOD hopes to continue his work towards a fully accessible city and community.
- MOD welcomes Richard Skaff back from leave. He brings his expertise and energy back to the office.
- MOD will continue to update the top priorities on the Transition Plan and the Self Evaluation Plan. It is important to MOD that the community responds and agrees on how dollars are spent in meeting these goals.
- The Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) is a crucial part of MOD's work in receiving input from the community. Due to budget and staffing issues, MOD needs to work closely and productively with the MDC.
- MOD has received a number of applications for vacancies on the Mayor's Disability Council and hopes to fill these positions soon.
- Whether the MDC should hold meetings on alternate months will be one of the topics for discussion at the MDC Executive Committee on May 20.
- Despite administrative changes and budget issues, MOD has finalized Transition Plan MOU's (Memorandums of Understanding) with the Departments of Public Health, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks.
- The citywide Grievance Procedure is being reviewed. MOD hopes to have a revised Procedure completed by the end of this summer.

- MOD has continued to provide assistance to members of the public, City departments, program managers, contractors, City departmental staff, and international visitors, totaling more than a hundred contacts in the last month.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCESS COMMITTEE

Harry Mar, Chair of the Programmatic Access Committee reported that the Programmatic Access Committee met on Friday, May 2, 2003.

The main topic of discussion at the meeting focused on the reauthorization of the Minority Women and Local Business Utilization Ordinance, which was enacted to assist economically disadvantaged, minorities, and women-owned businesses to access city contracts. The PAC feels strongly that this ordinance should include providing bid preferences for disabled-owned businesses as well. The Director of the Alliance for Equity, an Association of Minority Women and Local Business Owners, expressed her support for the disabled community to have the ordinance amended to include disabled-owned businesses at the last PAC meeting. This will be a main topic at the next meeting scheduled on Friday, June 6, 2003, at the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM.

REPORT FROM THE EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting that was scheduled for Friday, June 13, 2003 has been cancelled.

REPORT FROM THE PHYSICAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Ed Evans, Chair of the Physical Access Committee reported that the Physical Access Committee met on Wednesday, April 23, 2003. Discussions took place on drawings presented by Kevin Jensen, Department of Public Works.

The meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2003 has been cancelled.

8 THE SAN FRANCISCO TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE, PRESENTATION BY RICHARD SKAFF, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MAYOR'S OFFICE ON DISABILITY, PRESENTATION BY CITY ARCHITECT, YOMI AGUNBIADI REGARDING FUNDING FOR TRANSITION PLAN PROPOSED PROJECTS. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED.

- ♦ Mr. Richard Skaff, Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office on Disability presented a Power-Point presentation which included a brief description of the City of San Francisco's American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan and that Transition Plan's priorities.
- ♦ A Transition Plan is the survey process used to determine physical accessibility in buildings and facilities owned or leased by a public entity, such as a City or County.

Title II of the ADA requires that a public entity with 50 or more employees must complete a transition plan to provide the technical information necessary to know which structural barriers must be removed to achieve program accessibility. The goal of the transition plan is to know where to make physical changes to buildings and facilities to assure that programs that the City provides to the public are accessible to all of the public including those people with disabilities.

- ◆ The Mayor’s Office on Disability has completed a physical survey on buildings and facilities owned or leased by San Francisco. An analysis of the cost to correct inaccessible facilities was completed, and a list of priorities and a schedule for necessary physical modifications was developed reflecting the City’s available budget.
- ◆ The intent of the ADA (a Federal civil rights law) is to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to function in the most independent manner available to them based on their disability. This law assures equal opportunity for people with disabilities and assures their ability to participate fully in the community in employment, education, and all programs and services enjoyed by the general public.
- ◆ Issues that were taken into consideration to determine project priorities were the frequency of public use, the nature of the program within the facility, and the unique activities that occur within the facility.
- ◆ Six priorities areas were developed based on the Program Accessibility Analysis, in accordance with the ADA Title obligation to view programs in their entirety:
 1. Public Works (curb ramps)
 2. Public Health
 3. Human Services
 4. Public Protection
 5. Arts and Recreation
 6. Administration and Finance

Richard Skaff paused here to get input from the Council on the public on these priorities.

- ◆ Council Member August Longo asked what percentage of the transition plan has been completed and how much money has been spent? Richard Skaff and Susan Mizner explained that the transition plan is complete, but will constantly be updated. As modifications are made to City buildings and facilities and new buildings and facilities are built, priorities may change.
- ◆ The six priorities are based on MOD’s facility and programmatic access analysis, as well as on public comment from past MDC meetings. Based on that information, and taking into consideration the ever-changing City budget, MOD will be focusing on the highest priority items first. Because the public right-of-way is basic to the function of the community, the Department of Public Works has developed a Transition Plan for curb ramps with its own priority ranking system to help determine where curb ramps are most needed throughout the City. The Department of Public Health is a top priority based on the disability Community’s need for access to medical facilities and medical programs.

- ◆ Luis Calderon, a member of the public, asked what barriers MOD is facing in terms of ensuring that the Plan's recommendations are followed, and whether there has been cooperation from City Departments. Mr. Skaff stated that the project has been a huge process that has involved developing contracts for consultants, hiring those consultants, setting up parameters for the consultants scope of work, surveying buildings, reviewing and analyzing City programs, developing priorities, and developing project budgets. What MOD now has is a Plan that this is moving forward.
- ◆ After completing a City-wide survey of every intersection, DPW determined that the installation of new curb ramps and replacement of existing dangerous curb ramps alone will cost \$120 million. There is altogether \$220 million worth of work that needs to be done. Some access features (like path of travel to, into and through buildings, as well as bathrooms) are crucial, others (such as signage being at exactly the right height) are not as crucial.
- ◆ Peggy Coster, a member of the public, expressed concern about budget cuts and staff cuts within MOD, and the consequences for the ability of the Mayor's Office on Disability to function effectively.
- ◆ Richard Skaff reiterated that the Department of Public Works is managing the prioritization of curb ramps. Priority areas include medical facilities, government facilities, areas of high volume pedestrian traffic, etc.
- ◆ Priorities for curb ramp installation are based both on location in the City, as well as ensuring that curb ramps face in the direction of the sidewalk to ensure safe way-finding for persons who are blind or who have low vision. The first priority is for barrier removal in projects that are city and county responsibility. Curb ramps are also being installed as part of the street resurfacing program.
- ◆ Yomi Agunbiade the Acting Director for the Office of the City Architect, spoke regarding funding for the Transition Plan proposed projects. He noted that due to budget constraints, General Fund dollars for capital projects including facilities maintenance, were reduced approximately 50% for fiscal year 2003-04 to \$11.2 million. Approximately \$9 million is allocated for facilities maintenance, matching prior years' values. The remaining \$2 million needed to be allocated for various projects from all city departments with a valuation of over \$100 million. The Mayor's Office of Disability has been allocated \$650,000 for transition plan projects, which amounts to a little over 30% of the actual General Fund Capital dollars to 2003-04. "

9 PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE CITY'S STANDARD CURB RAMP DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATIONS. PRESENTATION BY KEVIN JENSEN, ADA / DISABILITY ACCESS COORDINATOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME

- ◆ Kevin Jensen provided the Council with an update of the Department of Public Works (DPW)'s curb ramp design, as well as the Department's Curb Ramp Transition Plan. Ken Spielman, the Department of Public Works' Curb Ramp Coordinator, presented a

Power-Point presentation which showed some specific examples of typical conditions and types of curb ramp installations. Since last December, DPW has been working on updating the City's Standard Plans for curb ramps, to bring them into alignment with recent changes in State and Federal technical requirements.

DPW has also been working to develop a standard for truncated domes that provide not only the necessary underfoot and cane detection, but also sound on cane cues, while at the same time minimizing discomfort for person with partial spinal injuries in going over rough surfaces.

The ADA Guidelines specify priorities for curb ramp installation. The highest priority is for curb ramps proximate to government facilities, the second priority is for transportation-related curb ramp, and lastly, residential and other areas.

DPW has a goal of working with assistance from MOD to update their complain and request tracking system, by expanding their current curb ramp Survey data and updating it.

- ♦ Ken Spielman, civil engineer, and DPW Bureau of Engineering Streets and Highways Section, Curb Ramp Coordinator did a slide presentation on some locations in the City where DPW has recently constructed curb ramps. He encouraged the Council and members of the public to review copies of the draft standard plans and to comment.

The contact person is: Kevin Jensen, Department of Public Works, ADA Disability Access Coordinator, 30 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor, San Francisco, Ca. 94102.
Email: Kevin_w_Jensen@sfgov.org, phone: 415.558-4519.

10 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY IN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM. PRESENTATION BY ELISSA BERROL, ILRC CLAIM! PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ABOUT THE CLAIM! PROGRAM. A ten-month program designed to provide leadership and advocacy training for people with disabilities from underserved communities.

- ♦ Elissa Berrol, Program Coordinator from Independent Living Resource Center in San Francisco announced a new program called "The Community Leadership and Advocacy in Mentorship Program". The goal of Claim! is to support emerging leaders with disabilities in the San Francisco community. The program offers people new leadership and advocacy skills, matching them with a peer mentor and giving them opportunities to work on in an individualized leadership project. It begins in August and runs for ten months. Applicants for mentors or mentees need to be 18 years and older. Elissa can be reached at 415. 543-6222 x 128 or email: ISELISSA@ILRCSF.ORG

11 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

12 PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

13 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ♦ Ed Evans requested the following issues be addressed at upcoming MDC meetings: working with the Department of Public Works to obtain a inspection requirement in having property owners request that a structural engineer inspect the sub-sidewalk basements every five years; issues relating to Laguna Honda Hospital; working with the San Francisco Police Department in addressing the issue of people feeding pigeons causing health hazards; working with the San Francisco Police Department in enforcement of prohibiting riding bicycles and skateboards on sidewalks, causing a pedestrian safety issue; preventing the proposal by a San Francisco Supervisor allowing motorcycles and motor scooters to park on sidewalks.
- ♦ Michael Kwok would like to invite a Supervisor to attend the next monthly community meeting to discuss coordination of reaching out to non-profits and housing developers

14 COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUCEMENTS

Ken Stein announced the following:

- A special presentation on "Access to Telecommunications Technology for People with Disability" will be presented at the Telecommunications Commission of the City and County of San Francisco. The telecommunications strategic plan is currently in the process of being updated making access of information technology and how it will be used in the City important. This will take place on Thursday, May 29, 2003, City Hall, Room 400 beginning at 5:30 P.M.
- The Superfest Disability Film Festival offers a wide collection of National and International Films dealing with disability issues. This will take place on Saturday, June 7th and Sunday, June 8th at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley, Phone: 510.849-2568.

15 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

Susan Mizner
Acting Council Secretary

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of
Mayor's Disability Council
Friday, 18 July 2003
1:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 400

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1:00 p.m.

- 1 ROLL CALL
- 2 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
- 3 ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes

1:10

- 4 PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the MDC. Each speaker limited to two minutes.
- 5 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Chair
- 6 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Acting Director
- 7 INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs

1:30

- 8 INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM: Disability access in the city's homeless shelter system: Issues, Problems, and Solutions. (1.5 hours)

Presentations by: Department of Human Services, Mayor's Office on Homelessness, Shelter Outreach Project, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Workgroup, City shelter providers, Community Resources Action Project, Mental Health Association of San Francisco.

Comments from the public.

3:00

BREAK

3:10

- 9 INFORMATION ITEM: Parking of Motor Vehicles on Sidewalks and Related Parking Fine Considerations. Presentation by Robert R. Planthold, Co-Chair of Senior Action Network's Pedestrian Safety Committee. (5 minutes)

Comments from the public.

3:15

- 11 DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence.
- 12 PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the MDC. (Each speaker limited to two minutes.)
- 13 DISCUSSION ITEM: Member requests for future agenda items.
- 14 DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member comments and announcements.
- 15 ADJOURNMENT

[Estimated times are only guidelines.]

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Members of the public who wish to listen to and/ or participate in this meeting but are unable to physically attend, may call into the Council's 'Telephone Bridge' at 554-9632. Up to thirty persons may listen on this conference line, and may be recognized to speak during public comment periods. Call 554-9632 after 1:00 p.m. and a staff person will handle requests to speak.

Mayor's Disability Council

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please call 554-6789 (V), 554-6799 (TTY)

Regular Meetings – third Fridays (please confirm dates):

Next meeting dates: August Meeting - Cancelled

Next Regular Meeting – September 19, 2003

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Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

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Mayor's Disability Council

≡ Minutes
18 July 2003

1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Norma Block, Ed Evans, Elizabeth Grigsby, Michael Kwok, Denise Senhaux.

Excused Absent: August Longo

Absent: Vincent Behan

Mayor's Office on Disability: Susan Mizner, Acting Director; Richard Skaff, Deputy Director; Ken Stein, Program Administrator and Josie J. Lee, Acting Council Clerk.

Chair, Ed Evans called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Council approved the agenda for the July 18, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC).

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes from the MDC meeting of May 16, 2003.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

- ◆ Jean Lynch, a member of the Senior Action Network; Muni Accessibility Committee and the City and County Pedestrian Safety Task Force expressed concerns that the crossing at Presidio, Park Presidio and 19th Avenue is dangerous and hazardous to people with disabilities, low vision, no vision, impaired hearing and people with wheelchairs. She recommended that the City install a median divider. She said she would bring this issue up with the Department of Public Works at their next meeting.
- ◆ John Malone, a member of the Homeless Senior Task Force said that the number of homeless, disabled and veterans beds in the shelters has decreased from 42 to 28. He will be requesting 250 more beds at their upcoming task force meeting being held on Thursday, July 24, 2003 at City Hall, Room 415 beginning at 2:00 P.M. The public is welcome to attend.
- ◆ Jessie Lorenz of the Independent Living Center in San Francisco announced a meeting scheduled with the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, July 22, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. where the Supervisors will look at the proposed Transportation Authority Expenditure Plan regarding a half cent sales tax which funds transportation programs for seniors and people with disabilities. For more information, contact Jessie Lorenz at 543.6222.
- ◆ Rue Graffis of United Taxicab Workers expressed his concern that the group known as the Permit Holders and Drivers Association is promoting an initiative this year that will allow permit holders to keep their medallions forever as a disability benefit without any driving requirement. He would like members of the disability community to come and speak against this.
- ◆ Mark Gruber, a taxi driver and permit holder with United Taxicab Workers also spoke against the initiative, and stated that the ballot measure was exclusionary, wrong and unfair. The Supervisors have signed this to be on the ballot and it would affect only a privileged minority of the drivers at the expense of the rest.

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Ed Evans announced that the Mayor's Disability Council needs support to continue to do their job for the people in the community. Volunteers may contact the Mayor's Office on Disability at 415.554-6789.

6 REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Susan Mizner reported the following:

- Mayor Willie Brown has appointed four new members to the Mayor's Disability Council: Ruth Nunez, Coordinator of Larkin Youth Shelter; Jack Fagen, Associate Director of The Arc of San Francisco; Jul Lynn Parsons, an active member in the

MDC Programmatic Access Committee and Employment Committee and Eugene Flannery, ADA Coordinator for the Mayor's Office on Community Development. The Swearing-In Ceremony will take place on Friday, July 25, 2003 in City Hall on the Mayor's Balcony, Second Floor at 4:00 P.M.

- She thanked Chair, Ed Evans for taking the lead on the topic for this Council meeting, and all of the work he has done to help prepare the meeting.

Ms. Mizner also provided some of the highlights of MOD's recent work:

- In May and June, MOD gave five trainings to shelter providers in the city on how to work with people with disabilities and how to meet their obligations under the ADA.
- MOD is receiving proposals to improve city services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. The top ranked proposal will be announced by the end of July.
- The Telecommunications Commission invited MOD to give a presentation on Assistive Technology for people with disabilities. Ken Stein, MOD Program Administrator invited a number of speakers with great expertise, and the Commission was receptive and eager to incorporate the issues raised into the long-term plan for the city. Ms. Mizner thanked DTIS and the Commission for their proactive approach to disability access issues.
- MOD toured the beautiful new Asian Art Museum. Richard Skaff, Deputy Director and Jim Whipple, Access Compliance Officer, are working with staff there to resolve the few remaining access issues.
- MOD has been working with Building Services in City Hall to address some technical problems with the Talking Signs located in the basement. Ms. Mizner thanked Corrine Mehigan, City Hall's Building Manager, Felix Rodriguez and Bill Carfile for their quick responses to the problem.
- MOD continues to be an international resource. Visitors from South Africa had the opportunity to exchange information about AIDS on their continent with MOD.
- MOD continues to provide technical assistance to both City Departments and the public, handling more than 100 inquiries per month.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCESS COMMITTEE

The next meeting will be August 1, 2003 at the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind.

8 DISABILITY ACCESS IN THE CITY'S HOMELESS SHELTER SYSTEM. ISSUES, PROBLEMS, AND SOLUTIONS. PRESENTATIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, MAYOR'S OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS, SHELTER OUTREACH PROJECT, SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH WORK GROUP, CITY SHELTER PROVIDERS, COMMUNITY RESOURCES ACTION PROJECT AND MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO.

- ♦ Chair, Ed Evans emphasized that the purpose of this item is to discuss issues, problems and solutions regarding disability access in the city's homeless shelter

system. It is not to discuss budgetary items or legislation items under the purview of the Board of Supervisors.

- ◆ Susan Mizner gave some background statistics on the high rates of both mental and physical disabilities among homeless people. She also encouraged presenters to organize their information by the three main areas of disability access:
 1. Architectural Access involves features in the physical environment that allow equal access by people with disabilities. Examples include ramps, grab bars, and elevators. This most frequently affects people with mobility impairments.
 2. Communication Access involves alternative ways of communicating in order for people with disabilities to have equal access to information. Examples include sign language interpreters and real time captioning for people with hearing impairments; materials in Large Print or Braille for people with visual impairments. This most frequently affects people with sensory disabilities, but may also be needed for people with cognitive impairments.
 3. Programmatic Access involves how things are done, and how staff are trained to insure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to benefit from a service or activity. The basic features include letting people know that they have the right to ask for modifications or changes in rules or practices and to have staff trained and ready to respond to those requests. This most frequently affects people with hidden disabilities such as chronic illnesses and psychiatric disabilities.

Ms. Mizner expressed her eagerness to hear from staff, advocates and clients. She said the Council hopes to understand what is working, what still needs attention and how things can be done better so that MOD or other entities may be helpful.

- ◆ Cindy Ward, Department of Human Services gave an overview of the Family Shelter System. There are five programs that are connected to the centralized intake agency for all families accessing shelter. They operate a toll free hot line, conduct family interviews, and place families in shelter as space becomes available.
 - Hamilton Family Emergency Shelter offers one to thirty day stays for families who are waiting for shelter and have no other option.
 - This shelter operates two medical hotel rooms for families who can't stay in a congregation setting.
 - Compass, Hamilton and St. Joseph are three full service centers that offer a three to six month stay in private rooms.
 - In terms of Architectural Access, all facilities such as office space, client rooms, bed areas, restrooms and dining areas are accessible to clients who use wheelchairs.
 - In terms of Communication Access, currently, none of the programs have TTY capability, however, work is in progress with MOD to provide the programs with

the technology and training of its staff. Staff are trained to read written materials to clients who are sight-impaired or who have a learning disability.

- In terms of Programmatic Access, all families can be prioritized for shelter placement and a medical hotel room for medical or mental health reasons by submitting documentation from their medical provider. All the programs in all the shelters provide the Notice of Rights to Reasonable Accommodation Request Form to their clients. Most of the requests are responded to within 48 hours since the full service family shelters are open 24 hours a day with the exception of Hamilton Family Emergency Center, which is closed from 9 AM to 2:00 PM (remains open to clients who need to stay for bed rest). All staff receive mandatory training on ADA and how programs must accommodate clients with physical or mental health disabilities.
- ◆ Carolyn Plybon, Contract Manager for the Single Adult Shelters that contract with the Department of Human Services presented a chart that covered all the different services available in all the shelters.
 - In terms of Architectural Access, seven out of the 11 shelters are wheelchair accessible. The three largest shelters are wheelchair accessible. Included are the bathrooms, dining areas and the sleeping areas. Most of the shelters also provide storage.
 - In terms of Communication Access, MOD will be working with the Shelters to provide training to staff on relay services, TTY and real time captioning services.
 - In terms of Programmatic Access, there is a Reasonable Modification form to request a specific modification. Staff have been trained to accommodate people with disabilities by giving them more chances than someone who doesn't have those issues. For example, if someone has a cognitive disorder, or various mental health issues (not including violence) then, they need to be allowed more chances before they would be denied services for breaking a rule. They try to work with the clients to help them understand what the issue is and what the problem is and what needs to change.
- ◆ Devon Richardson, Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office on Homelessness presented a power-point presentation on their new system called CHANGES, Coordinated Homeless Assessment of Needs and Guidance Through Effective Services. It can be used citywide to access, coordinate, and streamline services more effectively for clients. The next step is to begin a process of centralizing homeless databases in other city departments. The goal is to have one client record in the system to be used citywide across departments to coordinate and consolidate databases across service providers. For more information, Mr. Richardson can be reached at 415. 252-3148.
- ◆ Allison Lum, Shelter Outreach Project, said that the new CHANGES system has led to confusion among clients, and that there needs to be a safety net for people when the system breaks down. She also explained that people who are not on the County Adult Assistance Program (CAAP) would be displaced if Prop N passes. Only CAAP clients

would get a 43 night stay, whereas all others would have shorter stays. This would affect people on disability benefits, and people too disabled to get on any benefits. Ms. Lum can be reached 346-3740.

- ◆ Beth Stokes, Operations Director at The Hamilton Family Center presented information on the two shelters and one transitional housing program.
 - In terms of architectural access, the Hamilton Family Residences, located at 260 Golden Gate, and the Transitional Housing Program, which was built three years ago, are both fully ADA accessible. The Waller Street Facility is accessible except for a gymnasium on the second floor where children may play.
 - In terms of Communications Access, staff will be trained on TTY machines and relay messaging.
- ◆ Denise Albano, Director of Programs at Larkin Street Youth Services, which provides a continuum of services for homeless youth aged 14 to 24, stated that there are 10 different sites with 17 different programs throughout the city.
 - In terms of Architectural issues for the shelter programs which include The Lark Inn for 18 to 24 year olds, and the Diamond Youth Center, for 14 to 20 year olds, both facilities are ADA accessible. The Lark Inn has an elevator for the two split levels and The Diamond Youth Shelter is located on one level. A Residential Facility for Youth Living with HIV is completely ADA accessible down to CAN Certified Nursing Attendants and RN on site with the ability to offer managed meds.
 - In terms of Communications access within the sensory disabilities, a TTY machine is available.
 - In terms of Programmatic Access, the programs are very flexible and can be provided accordingly as needed. For example, the Larking Shelter has lodging for animals, which include pets or service animals. There is also extensive training from line staff on dealing with youth with mental health issues.
- ◆ Belinda Lyons, Mental Health Association of San Francisco (MHA), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving conditions for people and educating the community on Mental Health spoke on behalf of people who have mental disabilities. Many people with mental disabilities have stated that they would prefer to sleep on the streets than to deal with some of the things they experienced in the shelter system. Examples include:
 - loud noise levels, which can aggravate fear, confusion, PTSD and other anxiety disorders.
 - threats to personal safety, which can lead to fear of taking treatment medications that may cause drowsiness.
 - fingerprinting and biometric imaging trigger fear and paranoia
 - unsanitary conditions, such as bed bugs, lice and roaches, promote anxiety and depression.

- o Long lines and going from one site to another requires coordination and stamina that weed out certain people.

In order to address these problems, Ms. Lyons recommended settings with increased privacy; upholding safety and cleanliness standards; allowing people to stay in bed longer if medications make them drowsy; having pictures taken as an alternative to finger imaging; and especially to increase training for the shelter staff on information about the rights of people with disabilities and how to provide reasonable accommodations.

- ◆ Delphine Brody, Tenant advocate with MHA, provided her own personal experience of her one night stay in a homeless shelter in San Francisco. She was treated rudely by staff, which aggravated her Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Her anxiety was increased by loud noise all night, and the likelihood of her belongings being taken. The long lines she had to stand in and the fact that it took her all day to access the shelter bed aggravated her depression.
- ◆ Alonzo Carmichael, a former Vietnam combat victim diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and a consumer of mental health services in San Francisco lived in shelters for years. He said that there were many barriers for people with disabilities. In addition to what others had mentioned, he said that staff people were often yelling and had an authoritarian point of view; that there was wide-spread discrimination against people with psychiatric disabilities.
- ◆ Bruce Oka, Community Resources Action Project has visited many shelters; has friends who use the shelters and has seen the chaos that goes on in the shelters as mentioned by previous speakers. Several shelters are physically accessible however, they are not accessible to those with psychiatric and mental health disabilities. 99% of the people on the street are not there because they want to be but because the social climate has caused them to be. There should be enough housing to accommodate the thousands of homeless that live on the streets of San Francisco. Better efforts are needed to solve the housing shortage in this city.
- ◆ Kym Valadez, of Swords to Plowshares (a Veterans Service Organization) and Chair of the Homeless Service Providers Network Council (Network of 50 agencies including shelters for homeless people in San Francisco) expressed concern regarding the ability to place people with chronic and severe disabilities in the shelters. At the South of Market Shelter, 100 beds have been reduced to 48 beds and could be reduced further. Swords to Plowshares has had 15 beds set aside for Veterans with disabilities. She applauded the Department of Human Services for having this accommodation for people who could not make it through the reservation or lottery systems, and encourages the department to continue the practice.
- ◆ Jessie Lorenz, Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC), expressed her disappointment in the Mayor's Disability Council's unwillingness to hear any testimony regarding Proposition N, and said the Council should advise the Mayor and Supervisors on such legislation. The ILRC helps people fill out reasonable accommodation requests. However, they have found that people making such requests are suddenly "86ED" from

the shelter for breaking some minor rule. This has occurred on an ongoing basis and seems to be a form of retaliation. She recommended that shelter staff be trained especially by someone with a disability who has lived in the shelters, and that reasonable accommodation forms be easily accessible and available.

Public Comment

- ◆ Elana Galiane, Project Director for Angela Alioto's Safe Project Initiative said she looks forward to working with people from this meeting to get recommendations to improve conditions in this city. She also said that she saw a former client of hers who had not bathed in a month because no one had told her that there was an option of not being finger-imaged or photographed to get into the shelters.
- ◆ Mo from SHOUT has a psychological disability stated that he was kicked out of a shelter because he is diabetic. He feels its time for a change.
- ◆ Leroy Moore, Disability Advocates of Minorities Organization and Coalition on Homelessness expressed his concern that there needs to be a solution to the fact that there is no drop-in center after hours for people with mental health issues. More information can be obtained from Jennifer Friedenbach at the Coalition on Homelessness. Phone: 415. 346-3740.
- ◆ John Malone, Homeless Senior Task Force, announced a meeting to discuss how to spend \$810,000 of which \$500,000 will go towards 100 units of permanent housing for seniors, disabled and veterans to begin January 1, 2004. In the next six months, a building will need to be leased and prepared for housing. People interested may attend the meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2003, City Hall, Room 416 beginning at 2:00 PM.
- ◆ Helen Luey, Hearing Society for the Bay Area expressed her delight in the awareness and progress about TTYs and interpreters. Hearing loss is a hidden disability and is not easily recognized. People who can't understand, don't follow directions, give inappropriate answers or don't respond are often perceived as being non-cooperative or mentally ill. Front line staff need to be trained and given skills to deal with this. Having the proper equipment is also helpful but finding a theft-free environment to store the equipment would be essential. One helpful device would be a pocket talker or a simple amplifier to be available on site at the shelters.
- ◆ Garth Ferguson stated that the solution to homelessness is affordable housing and supportive systems. The shelters cannot solve the problem of homelessness.
- ◆ Randy McMann, Shelter Outreach Project for the Coalition on Homelessness, works with people with disabilities in the shelters. He expressed concern regarding the finger-imaging. He prefers a system of identification without invading one's privacy.
- ◆ Jack Fagan, a newly appointed Council member, said that he has been a diabetic for years. He takes a number of injections per day and is glad to hear about the concern and accommodation for refrigeration and storage of insulin. He said most diabetic's

main concern is not insulin, but the storage of syringes and the safeguards against theft of syringes. Since syringes are sold in quantities of 100 they are difficult to conceal. Mr. Fagan is also President of Ascend, an organization that supports Asperger's Syndrome, many symptoms of which are confused with other disabilities. He said he is looking forward to training Council Members, homeless shelter providers and other service providers about the syndrome.

- ♦ Elizabeth Newnam, Coordinator for the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind, stated that information being sent out on the shelters is printed in small print. This information needs to be printed in Large Print to accommodate people with visual impairments. She also said that blind and visually impaired people need to be trained on how to get to the shelters and once there, need to be oriented to the shelter regarding restrooms, eating areas, and sleeping areas.
- 9 PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON SIDEWALKS AND RELATED PARKING FINE CONSIDERATIONS. PRESENTATION BY ROBERT R. PLANTHOLD, CO-CHAIR OF SENIOR ACTION NETWORK'S PEDESTRIAN SAFETY COMMITTEE**
- ♦ Robert Planthold presented his concerns on parking motor vehicles on sidewalks.
 - A group of motorcycle users drafted a resolution (No. 030808) to allow motorcycles to park on sidewalks without being ticketed, which is contrary to state law.
 - This group has not consulted with other groups such as: Pedestrian Advocacy, Senior Action Network or the MDC regarding this resolution.
 - Motorcycle parking on the sidewalk can obstruct pedestrian access or cause problems for people getting in and out of vehicles
 - Fluids that leak from motorcycles onto sidewalks can cause an unsafe, hazardous environment. The city may be sued if a pedestrian should slip.
 - He feels that parking motorcycles on sidewalks is a liability issue, safety hazard and an area of insensitivity and should be brought up again at a later meeting.
 - ♦ Ed Evans responded that he would pursue this issue at the next Physical Access Committee Meeting.
 - ♦ Pi Ra, Chair of The Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee stated that as a result of the motorcycle resolution, there has been an increase in motorcycle parking on the sidewalk. The PSAC voted to oppose the motorcycle parking resolution on June 23, 2003. He said that sidewalks are not a place for motorized vehicles and that better parking solutions need to be created.
 - ♦ Sue Vaughn, a member of The Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee reported that 18,659 motorcycles were registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles during 2002. She has been keeping a record of the number of times motorcycles are driven down sidewalks. She cannot support this resolution.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

11 PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ Bob Planthold said he noticed contractors parking their vehicles in two driveways at the Port, blocking the path of travel forcing pedestrians to walk in the driveway. He senses reluctance on the part of Department of Parking and Traffic officers to enforce this issue and a reluctance from the Port to request enforcement.

12 MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ♦ Denise Senhaux asked to follow up on training shelter / agency staff on how to work with people with disabilities.
- ♦ Ed Evans supported Denise on this issue and suggested looking at ways to get beyond the shelter system by creating transitional and permanent housing. He would like to focus on helping the homeless seek treatment and move into housing as a future agenda item.

13 COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

14 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ed Evans noted that two major leaders in the disability community had recently passed away, Mary Skyer and Inola Maxwell. Both were very strong advocates for seniors and disabled people in the community and will be sorely missed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m. in their memory.

Mayor's Disability Council



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Mayor

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Edward Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Denise Senhaux

Agenda
NOTICE OF CANCELLED MEETING

Susan Mizner
Acting Director
Mayor's Office on Disability

Mayor's Disability Council **15 August 2003**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the meeting of the Mayor's Disability Council scheduled for Friday, August 15, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400, City Hall, San Francisco, California has been **CANCELLED**. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, September 19, 2003.

San Francisco

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director, MOD

Ed Evans, Chair
Vincent Behan
NormaBlock
Jack Fagan
Elizabeth Grigsby
Eugene T. Flannery
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Ruth Nunez
Jul Lynn Parsons
Denise Senhaux

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of

Mayor's Disability Council

Friday, 19 September 2003

1:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 400

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1:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL
2. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes

1:10

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Disability Council. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.
5. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Chair – Welcome New Members
6. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Acting Director
7. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs

1:30

8. INFORMATION ITEM: Disability Service Award – Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Carol Ragle. (5 Minutes)

1:35

9. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM: Update on the Port of San Francisco's Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Presentation by John Paul Scott, ADA Coordinator, Port of San Francisco. (30 minutes)

2:05

BREAK

2:15

10. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM: Budget Presentation – City Process and Disability Issues. Presentation by Ara Minasian, Administrative Services. (45 Minutes)

3:00

11. INFORMATION ITEM: October 17 Hoarders and Clutterer's Conference – Presentation by S.F. Mental Health Association. (10 minutes)

3:10

12. INFORMATION ITEM: Regarding October 25 Legion of Honor Access Advisor's Open House. Degas Exhibition and related activities including art making, art demonstrations, panel discussion on disability by Bay Area artists, and a movement workshop led by San Francisco ballet's great Evelyn Cisneros. Admission is free to the disability community with RSVP. Presentation by Charlie Dorris, Legion of Honor Access Advisory Committee Member. (10 minutes)

3:20

13. DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence.
14. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the MDC. (Each speaker limited to two minutes)
15. DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member requests for future agenda items.
16. DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member comments and announcements.
17. ADJOURNMENT

[Estimated times are only guidelines.]

For persons with disabilities or others who cannot attend in person, meetings are broadcast (open captioned) on SFGTV Channel 26.
Call 557-4293 for listings.

MDC Meetings are also video-streamed live and are archived at:
http://www.sfgov.org/site/sfgtv_index.asp?id=13353

Videotapes of the three most recent MDC meetings are made available ten days after meeting date in the Main Public Library. Written minutes in accessible formats are available at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300, San Francisco, California.

Telephone Bridge at (415) 554-9632.

Members of the public who wish to listen to and/ or participate in this meeting but are unable to physically attend, may call into the Council's 'Telephone Bridge Line' at 554-9632. Up to thirty persons may listen on this conference line, and may be recognized to speak during public comment periods. Call 554-9632 after 1:00 p.m. and a staff person will handle requests to speak at the appropriate times on the agenda.

Mayor's Disability Council Accessible Meeting Information

City Hall is accessible to persons using wheelchairs and others with disabilities. Assistive listening devices are available and meetings are open-captioned in the hearing room. Agendas are available in large print. Materials in alternative formats and/or American Sign Language interpreters will be made available upon request. **Please make your request for alternative format or other accommodations to the Acting Council Clerk, Josie J. Lee, 554-6789 (V), 554 6799 (TTY). Requests for accommodations made at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to help ensure availability.**

The nearest accessible BART station is Civic Center Plaza at the intersection of Market, Grove, and Hyde Streets. The accessible MUNI Metro lines are the J, K, L, M, and N (Civic Center Station or Van Ness Avenue Station). MUNI bus lines serving the area are the 47 Van Ness, 9 San Bruno, and the 6, 7, 71 Haight/ Noriega. Accessible curbside parking is available on 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place and Grove Street.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based scented products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

For inquiries or requests for accommodations,
please call 554-6789 (V), 554-6799 (TTY)

Regular Meetings – Third Fridays of the month (please confirm dates)

Next Regular Meeting: October 24, 2003

(Please Note: This meeting only will be held on the fourth Friday of the month).

Know Your Rights Under the Sunshine Ordinance:

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall by mail to Board of Supervisors, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, S.F. 94102 by phone at (415) 554-7724 (V), (415) 554-5227 (TTY), or (415) 554-7854 by fax, or by email to Donna.hall@sfgov.org. Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Hall or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at <http://www.sfgov.org/sunshine>

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Mayor's Disability Council**401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300****San Francisco, CA 94102****E-mail: mod@sfgov.org Fax: 415. 554-6159**

Mayor's Office on Disability



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director

Upcoming Meetings: September & October 2003

MDC Executive Committee

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 421

San Francisco, CA 94102

Tuesday, 23 September 2003

Tuesday, 30 September 2003

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

MDC Physical Access Committee CANCELLED

MDC Programmatic Access Committee

Rose Resnick Lighthouse

214 Van Ness Avenue

2nd Floor Conference Room

San Francisco, CA 94102

Friday, 3 October 2003

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

San Francisco, CA 94102

Friday, 24 October 2003

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Jack Fagan
Eugene T. Flannery
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Ruth Nunez
Jul Lynn Parsons
Denise Senhaux

Mayor's Disability Council

Minutes

19 September 2003

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1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Vincent Behan, Norma Block, Ed Evans, Jack Fagan, Eugene T. Flannery, Elizabeth Grigsby, Michael Kwok, Ruth Nunez, Jul Lynn Parsons, Denise Senhaux.

Excused Absent: August Longo

Mayor's Office on Disability: Susan Mizner, Acting Director; Richard Skaff, Deputy Director; Ken Stein, Program Administrator and Josie J. Lee, Council Clerk.

Chair, Ed Evans called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Council approved the agenda for the September 19, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC).

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Council approved the minutes from the MDC meeting of July 18, 2003.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ A citizen via bridge line expressed his concern that Supervisor Matt Gonzales and Supervisor Bevan Dufty ignored the State Law and safety hazards of people with disabilities by asking the Department of Parking and Traffic to forego ticketing motorcycles that park on the city's sidewalks. If a motorcycle leaks transmission or brake fluid on the sidewalk and if somebody falls, the City would be partially liable for that accident. Interested citizens can call the Supervisor's office to let them know that it is unsafe and hazardous.
- ♦ Camila Field read the declaration of policy on Proposition S, local legislation passed in San Francisco last November 2002 on the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency crackdown on local medical cannabis clubs. Since November 2002, several individuals in the community, including Ms. Field have been meeting to examine implementation proposals on the possibility of establishing a program whereby the City would grow medical cannabis and distribute it to patients attempting to exercise their rights under Proposition 215, California's compassionate Use Act of 1996. The public is invited to participate and add input at the next meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2003 in the John Taylor Conference Room located in City Hall, beginning at 10:30 A.M.

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Ed Evans expressed his concerns about motorcycle parking on sidewalks. He stated that safe and accessible parking spaces need to be created for motorcycles, but on the street, not on the sidewalk. He encourages anyone who comes across motorcycles parked on sidewalks to voice their concern to the Mayor's Office on Disability, phone: 554-6789.

The City Planning Department is in the process of implementing a multiple housing development unit. Adequate parking facilities need to be constructed with the housing units to prevent parking on sidewalks. Please contact Lydia Chan, ADA Coordinator at the City Planning Department, phone: 558-6417 to encourage adequate parking facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rue Graffis, a cab driver who lives in the Mission district, owned and operated nine motorcycles in her lifetime said that there is no motorcycle parking available in her neighborhood. Some people who prefer to drive motorcycles rather than drive a car cannot find parking for their motorcycle for blocks. She feels there should be motorcycle parking available on every block in the city and that public transit should be more efficient to eliminate the need to drive one's car.

Ed Evans requested that the new MDC members introduce themselves:

- ♦ Jack Fagan introduced himself as the Associate Acting Director at the ARC San Francisco. The ARC provides advocacy, support and training services to adults with developmental disabilities. He is also involved with the Asperger's Syndrome and autism community, as part of a group called Ascend.

- ♦ Eugene T. Flannery welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Mayor's Disability Council. He is the ADA Compliance Coordinator at the Mayor's Office of Community Development, which funds many organizations in the community through community development block grants. He also has extensive experience working in the field of substance abuse, mental health and related issues.
- ♦ Ruth Nunez is honored to be on the Mayor's Disability Council and is looking forward to doing the good work for the council. She is a Coordinator with Larkin Youth Shelter.
- ♦ Jul Lynn Parsons is delighted to work with everyone on the council. As a person with hearing impairment, she is involved in the programmatic access issues of communication and inclusion within the community. She welcomes all comments and feedback.

6 REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Susan Mizner reported the following highlights of MOD's recent work:

- MOD has finalized two Requests for Proposals (RFP), and is now in the process of negotiating the contracts for these services.
- One RFP, for the deaf and hard of hearing consultant, was awarded to the Deaf Counseling, Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA). DCARA will provide twenty-five trainings over the course of eighteen months with the first training provided to the Mayor's Disability Council. Todd Higgins, an employee of DCARA will work one day a week at MOD as a local community resource.
- The other RFP was awarded to Magar and Milstein to provide Fair Housing Amendments Act Training to the staff of all city-funded housing providers.
- Richard Skaff provided all day training on "Public Rights-of-Way" that was well attended by San Francisco staff and municipal employees from other counties.
- Logan Hopper completed an Employment Self Evaluation for the City, which can be obtained via email or viewed hard copy from the Mayor's Office on Disability.
- Ken Stein participated in the Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH) Ceremony which gave scholarships to a number of students at City College of San Francisco. He also represented MOD at the "Where There's A Will, There's A Way" conference.
- MOD was honored by two international visits during the month of August. One visit was from a blind disabled activist and his wife from China and another visit came from twenty people with severe disabilities living in Osaka Japan.
- Jose Caedo continues to provide referrals and technical assistance to the public, handling about 75 calls a month.
- Josie J. Lee, office administrator, was thanked for her hard work and dedication to the office. Ms. Mizner explained that Ms. Lee never takes a sick day nor a vacation and as an example of dedication to the office, she postponed a family trip so that she could staff the MDC meeting on her birthday.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCESS COMMITTEE

Harry Mar, Chair of the Programmatic Access Committee Meeting reported that the Programmatic Access Committee met on Friday, September 5, 2003.

The meeting focused on two aspects of the ongoing project for the inclusion of businesses owned by persons with disabilities in the City's Bid Preference programs. First, the PAC reviewed and updated the past work on Chapter 12 D of the City's Affirmative Action Measure for equal access to City contracts. Next, the committee is accumulating a list of disabled-owned businesses that would be eligible for City contracts.

REPORT FROM THE PHYSICAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Ed Evans, Chair of the Physical Access Committee said he is concerned about the lack of Physical Access Committee Meetings. Richard Skaff, Deputy Director said that due to the current workload and the lack of staff support, he cannot staff a meeting at this time.

8 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARD – PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO CAROL RAGLE.

- ♦ Chair, Ed Evans presented a disability service award to Carol Ragle, who has contributed many hours of volunteer work to MOD. Ed Evans encourages involvement and activism from others in the community.

9 UPDATE ON THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO'S SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN. Presentation by John Paul Scott, ADA Coordinator, Port of San Francisco.

- ♦ John Paul Scott presented an update on the Port of San Francisco:
 - The Port has seven and one half miles of property along the waterfront and provides a broad range of recreational outdoor activities.
 - Many of the Port's programs and activities were located in non-accessible spaces.
 - The Port is an ADA Title II entity and is required to do a self-evaluation plan to provide program access and to remove architectural barriers.
 - The Port is also required to do a Transition Plan to review physical access of its facilities.
 - Currently the Access Board is reviewing ADA Accessibility Guidelines and the State is working on Building Code modifications.
 - The Port will review and critique the work that has been done to date and look at current priorities to provide continuing education programs on the best practices and universal design in construction for accessibility.
 - The Port plans to involve people who are interested in the Port's activities, including individuals with disabilities and organizations that represent people with disabilities to reassess the self-evaluation.

- ◆ Bonnie Milstein, a lawyer for Magar and Milstein who has been hired to act as a facilitator to provide a peer review of the process in the Port's transition plan development, presented the following:
 - The Committee that will be involved in creating the Port's new Title II plan will include a group of people across the full range of disabilities (including people with mobility impairments, members of the deaf and hard of hearing community, members of the blind and visually impaired community, people with cognitive impairments and learning disabilities, people with illnesses that create disabilities such as HIV and representatives, etc) as well as people from the Port staff, along with tenants of the Port.
 - Input on physical barriers are welcome.
 - The Committee will attend a full day workshop and a tour of the Port led by John Paul Scott who will also go over the requirements of the ADA and review the Port's programs and schedule of priorities.
 - A final plan will be presented to the San Francisco Port Commission by March 2004
 - Commissioners Michela Alioto-Pier and Sue Bierman have been invited to serve as Port Commission liaisons to the PAC.
 - Representatives from the Mayor's Disability Council are also invited to participate in the planning process with the Port.
 - Bonnie Milstein can be reached at 415. 693-0752 or email: bmilstein@sbcglobal.net
 - John Paul Scott can be reached at 415. 274-0571 or email: john.scott@sfport.com
- ◆ Ed Evans expressed his concern about access for persons with environmental illness or chemical sensitivity issues. He encourages the use of natural cleaning products that do not endanger people's health and safety. He also encouraged the use of more Talking Signs along the Port.

10 BUDGET PRESENTATION – CITY PROCESS AND DISABILITY ISSUES.

Presentation by Ara Minasian, Administrative Services.

Mr. Minasian provided an overview of the Budget for both the City and for the Mayor's Office on Disability. He outlined the impact of the City's budget shortfall this year on MOD, reviewed the details of MOD's specific budget line items for the year, and then provided an overview of the City's Budget process.

'03-'04 Budget Shortfall

This year the City had more than a \$400 million shortfall in its budget. The City addressed this deficit in a number of ways: a) having employees return a significant portion of their salary and fringe benefits package, b) developing fee increases on MUNI and throughout other city services, and lastly, c) reducing some services and eliminating about 500 positions throughout the City.

In Administrative Services, 12 positions were deleted, one of which was in MOD. The Board of Supervisors restored the position, but did not restore funds with which to fill the position.

The biggest impact on MOD was in the capital budget. Previously, the capital budget was \$25 million for general fund capital projects. This year, that was reduced to \$13 million. Of that amount, \$11.5 million was dedicated to the maintenance of existing facilities, including City Hall and recreation centers. This left only about \$1.5 million for new capital projects. Of that amount, \$400,000 was allocated to this year's budget for disability access, capital projects. That is about 10% of the money allocated to MOD in the previous year. But, it is a significant portion of what discretionary amounts were available.

Unfortunately, the bad news may not be over for the year. Given the poor economy and anticipated additional cuts from the State budget, the City may need to ask for some additional mid-year reductions.

Ed Evans asked if the reduction in money would put the city in jeopardy of not meeting accessibility requirements.

Mr. Minasian said that he was not the expert to respond, but understood that, should that level of funding continue, it would not be adequate to meet legal requirements, as he understood them.

Review of MOD's Budget

Mr. Minasian provided a sheet summarizing MOD's Budget (see attachment). The Budget is divided into two parts, an Operating Budget and a Capital Budget. Previously, the entire MOD budget came out of the Capital Budget. The total Operating Budget is \$623,430, including salaries and fringe benefits, non-personal services (captioning fees are the bulk of this), materials and supplies, and services to other departments, including rent, accounting, etc.

The Capital Budget has \$400,000 in new money, an additional \$225,000 in money that went to DPW that is earmarked for disability access, and \$2.7 million left over from last year's budget, for a total Capital Budget of \$3,337,904.

This year, that money will be divided according to the general priority guidelines of the Transition Plan. The largest amount of money, almost \$1.7 million, will go to the Department of Public Health for construction to make health clinics and other facilities more accessible. Most of that money will go through the Department of Public Works.

MOD will spend approximately \$654,00 on contracts to provide training on programmatic, communication, and architectural access to City staff, and City contractors.

MOD is paying the Department of Public Works to hire a full-time crew whose job it is to construct curb ramps. The majority of this funding came out of last year's budget, but there remains close to \$400,000 to pay for the rest of the crew this year.

The remaining money will go to pay for two staff positions that are not in the Operating Budget, other Transition Plan work that is needed, two in-house service contracts, and a

Reasonable Accommodation Fund that assists non-profits contracting with the City in providing auxiliary aids and services, or other accessibility accommodations to their clients.

Overview of the City's Budget Process

Departments and Commissions have the initial responsibility to develop the budgets, based on the instructions that they receive from the Mayor's Budget Office. The Mayor's Office is responsible for proposing the budget to the Board of Supervisors, based on what the departments submit and the priorities that the Mayor establishes.

The Board of Supervisors can then amend the Mayor's budget, accept it, or amend parts of it. The Board has a Budget Analyst on contract. The Board may make broad priority shifts, or take detailed looks at specific line items.

For the Capital Budget, the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee is an advisory body, just like the MDC. It does not have final authority to do anything with the budget, but review and make recommendations to the Mayor.

In November, departments are already in the process of preparing their budgets. Departments that have commissions will have hearings on their budget into February. Generally, budgets must be submitted to the Mayor's Budget Office around March 1st. Then, the Mayor's Budget Office has to analyze and put all the pieces together and balance the budget based on revenue projections and other factors.

Usually, the Mayor submits the budget to the Board on June 1st. This past year, the Board requested an earlier date. Recently, the process has become more fluid and interactive between the Mayor, the Departments and the Board.

After the Board's Budget Committee finishes the budget, the full board considers it and adopts it by the end of July.

The public is always encouraged to get involved in the Budget process. The first thing to do is become informed. Information on the City's budget is available in a variety of places. Each department has their own channels of communication, including websites. Most departments have public meetings. The Board of Supervisors is also a good resource for information about what is happening in departments. They also have websites and public hearings that are televised and taped. The Controller's Office maintains a variety of budget documents available on the web. Finally, the Mayor's Budget book is a good source of information about what is already being proposed in the Mayor's Budget.

Once the public is informed, one can give input directly through e-mail, meetings, letters, etc. One of the most visible ways to provide input is to attend and present testimony at the hearings that commissions and committees hold.

11 HOARDERS AND CLUTTERER'S CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 17, 2003

- ♦ Catina Chang announced that the Hoarders and Clutterer's Conference presented by The Mental Health Association of San Francisco will be held at the Women's Building,

3542 18th Street in San Francisco on Friday, October 17, 2003 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. There is a \$35.00 general admission fee but no one will be turned away. Dr. Randy Frost, Professor of Psychology at Smith College along with Bonnie Milstein and Frances Strassman will discuss compulsive hoarding and cluttering, defined as the acquisition and failure to discard a large number of possessions that appear to be useless or of limited value in the attempt to decrease stress or anxiety. For more information, call 415. 241-2926 phone or TTY: 415. 554-6799.

12 LEGION OF HONOR ACCESS ADVISOR'S OPEN HOUSE – OCTOBER 25, 2003, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Degas Exhibition and related activities including art making, art demonstrations, panel discussion on disability by Bay Area artists, and a movement workshop led by San Francisco ballet's great Evelyn Cisneros. Admission is free to the disability community with RSVP. Presentation by Charlie Dorris, Legion of Honor Access Advisory Committee Member.

- ♦ Charlie Dorris announced that seventy-three bronze sculptures, formerly from the Museum of Art in Sao Palo in Brazil by the French artist, Edgar Degas will be presented.
- ♦ Other presenters will include Patrick Connolly, Chair for the panel of Bay Area Artists with Disabilities; John Calacky, former Art Director of the Yuerba Buena Art Center; Katherine Sherwood, painter from the Berkeley faculty and Evelyn Cisneros, former ballerina from the San Francisco Ballet.
- ♦ Art making is included as well as drawings that will be brought to life through dance.
- ♦ Music and light refreshments are included.
- ♦ A sign language interpreter will be available.
- ♦ RSVP by October 20, 2003 for free admission.
- ♦ For more information, contact Tish Brown, Access Coordinator at the Museum at 415. 750-7645 or email address: tbrown@famsf.org

13 Correspondence

No Correspondence.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ Cindy Hilke, Developmental Director with Independent Living Resource Center in San Francisco commented on the implementation of AB 1421, which mandates up to a six-month mental health commitment on the signature of police officer or family members alone and also raises budget concerns for the City and County of San Francisco. To receive more information, contact Cindy@ilrc.org
- ♦ Walter Park stated that the Tennessee versus Lane Case will be the next big disability rights case. It will eliminate the ability to receive compensatory damages in an access case. Send your inquiries to: Predeson, Attorney General, State Capital, Tennessee or to WalterPark@sbcglobal.net

- ◆ Walter Park announced the tenth anniversary of Disability Rights Advocates where he is a board member. Disability Rights Advocates will be holding a fundraising dinner in October. Everyone is invited to attend.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ◆ Eugene Flannery requested a presentation on "The Innovative Technique in the Criminal Justice System" given by the San Francisco Behavioral Health Court.
- ◆ Jack Fagan would like to invite members of the Autism Community who have autism or Asperger's syndrome to come and speak and raise awareness about what autism is and what people on the autism spectrum face each day.
- ◆ Norma Block suggested having an item on "Jail Psychiatric Services".
- ◆ Ruth Nunez suggested the topic of "Permanent, Transitional Housing" so that people who leave the shelters will have a place to stay.
- ◆ Ed Evans suggested the MDC work with the Mayor's Office on Disability and the Board of Supervisors to set up educational programs on health training, such as prevention of HIV among the young people to avoid becoming disabled.
- ◆ Ed Evans would like representatives from the following departments to return for review on their programs:
 - Department of Public Works
 - Department of Building Inspection
 - San Francisco Fire Department
 - Emergency Technical Services
 - San Francisco Police Department
 - Sheriff's Department
- ◆ Ed Evans requested that all suggestions be written and submitted to Susan Mizner.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Susan Mizner explained that this is the time when Council members may make announcements, or report on events and meetings that may be of interest to the disability community.

17 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**Mayor's Office on Disability
Summary of FY 03-04 Budget**

FY 03-04 Operating Budget

Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$	461,302
Non-Personal Services		79,700
Materials and Supplies		7,500
Services of Other Departments		74,928
Total FY 03-04 Operating Budget	\$	623,430

Disability Access Capital Project Budget

FY 03-04 Budget	\$	625,000
Balance Carried Forward from FY 02-03		2,712,904
Total Capital Project Budget	\$	3,337,904

Planned Expenditures from Capital Project

DPH - FY 02-03 MOU - Construction Costs	\$	905,107
DPH - FY 03-04 Work		753,568
Various Contracts		654,105
DPW - Curb Ramp Work		387,100
Staff not included in Operating Budget		271,000
Other Transition Plan Work		207,024
In-house Service Contracts		120,000
Reasonable Accommodation Fund		40,000
Total Planned Capital Expenditures	\$	3,337,904

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director, MOD

Ed Evans, Chair
Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Jack Fagan
Elizabeth Grigsby
Eugene T. Flannery
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Ruth Nunez
Jul Lynn Parsons
Denise Senhaux

25.40
1
/24/03

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of

Mayor's Disability Council

Friday, 24 October 2003

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

City Hall, Room 400

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1:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL
2. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes

1:10

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Disability Council. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.
5. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Chair
6. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Acting Director
7. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs

1:25

8. INFORMATION ITEM: County Clerk's Office and Program Accessibility. Presentation by Nancy Alfaro, Director County Clerk's Office. (5 Minutes)

1:30

9. INFORMATION ITEM: Public Hearing on Housing Issues for People with Disabilities, Board of Supervisors City Services Committee, Thursday, October 30th, 10:00AM, City Hall, Room 263; testimony from people living with disabilities, advocates, service providers and housing providers. Presentation by Molly Stafford, Aids Legal Referral Panel. For more information, contact ALRP 701-1200 x308. (5 minutes)

1:35

10. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM: San Francisco's Behavioral Health Court, an innovative approach for people with mental disabilities in the criminal justice system. Presentations by Alex Georgakopoulos, Deputy Director of Jail Aftercare Services; and the Honorable Ksenia Tsenin, Supervising Judge, Superior Court. (50 Minutes)

[Comments from the public are welcome]

2:25

BREAK

2:35

11. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM: Whether San Francisco should implement AB 1421, a measure that provides for involuntary psychiatric treatment and assisted outpatient treatment. Testimony from experts and community members supporting and opposing implementation, including representatives from the California Network of Mental Health Clients, NAMI San Francisco and the Mental Health Board. (90 Minutes)

[Comments from the public are welcome]

4:05

12. DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence.
13. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the MDC. (Each speaker limited to two minutes)
14. DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member requests for future agenda items.
15. DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member comments and announcements.
16. ADJOURNMENT

[Estimated times are only guidelines]

Meeting Broadcast & Webcast

For persons with disabilities or others who cannot attend in person, meetings are broadcast (open captioned) on SFGTV Channel 26.
Call 557-4293 for listings.

MDC Meetings are also video-streamed live and are archived at:
http://www.sfgov.org/site/sfgtv_index.asp?id=13353

Videotapes of the three most recent MDC meetings are made available ten days after meeting date in the Main Public Library. Written minutes in accessible formats are available at 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300, San Francisco, California.

Telephone Bridge at (415) 554-9632.

Members of the public who wish to listen to and/ or participate in this meeting but are unable to physically attend, may call into the Council's 'Telephone Bridge Line' at 554-9632. Up to thirty persons may listen on this conference line, and may be recognized to speak during public comment periods. Call 554-9632 after 1:00 p.m. and a staff person will handle requests to speak at the appropriate times on the agenda.

Mayor's Disability Council Accessible Meeting Information

City Hall is accessible to persons using wheelchairs and other disabilities. Assistive listening devices are available and meetings are real-time captioned and sign language interpreted. Agendas are available in large print and Braille. Other materials are available in alternative formats upon request. **Please make your requests for alternative format or other accommodations to the Council Clerk, Josie J. Lee, 554-6789 (V), 554 6799 (TTY).** **Requesting accommodations at least 72 hours prior to the meeting will help to ensure availability.**

The nearest accessible BART station is Civic Center Plaza at the intersection of Market, Grove, and Hyde Streets. The accessible MUNI Metro lines are the J, K, L, M, and N (Civic Center Station or Van Ness Avenue Station). MUNI bus lines serving the area are the 47 Van Ness, 9 San Bruno, and the 6, 7, 71 Haight/ Noriega. Accessible curbside parking is available on 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place and Grove Street.

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For inquiries or requests for accommodations,
please call 554-6789 (V), 554-6799 (TTY)

Regular Meetings – Third Fridays of the month (please confirm dates)

Next Regular Meeting: November 21, 2003

Know Your Rights Under the Sunshine Ordinance:

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. The Sunshine Ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review. For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall by mail to Board of Supervisors, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, S.F. 94102 by phone at (415) 554-7724 (V), (415) 554-5227 (TTY), or (415) 554-7854 by fax, or by email to Donna.hall@sfgov.org. Citizens interested in obtaining a copy of the Sunshine Ordinance can request a copy from Ms. Hall or by printing Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code on the Internet, at <http://www.sfgov.org/sunshine>

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Name

Title

Organization

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State, Zip

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Return completed information to:

Mayor's Disability Council

401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300

San Francisco, CA 94102

E-mail: mod@sfgov.org Fax: 415. 554-6159

Mayor's Office on **Disability**



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director

Upcoming Meetings: October & November 2003

MDC Executive Committee

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 421

San Francisco, CA 94102

Tuesday, 28 October 2003

(CANCELLED)

Tuesday, 4 November 2003

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MDC Physical Access Committee

War Memorial Building

401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300

San Francisco, CA 94102

Friday, 31 October 2003

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MDC Programmatic Access Committee

Rose Resnick Lighthouse

214 Van Ness Avenue

2nd Floor Conference Room

San Francisco, CA 94102

Friday, 7 November 2003

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

San Francisco, CA 94102

Friday, 21 November 2003

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Jack Fagan
Eugene T. Flannery
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Ruth Nunez
Jul Lynn Parsons
Denise Senhauz

Mayor's Disability Council Minutes 24 October 2003

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1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Norma Block, Ed Evans, Jack Fagan, Eugene T. Flannery, Michael Kwok, Jul Lynn Parsons.

Excused Absent: Vincent Behan, Elizabeth Grigsby, August Longo, Denise Senhauz

Absent: Ruth Nunez

Mayor's Office on Disability: Susan Mizner, Acting Director; Richard Skaff, Deputy Director; Ken Stein, Program Administrator, Josie J. Lee, Council Clerk and Howard O. Wong, Council Clerk.

Ed Evans, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Council approved the agenda for the October 24, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC).

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ed Evans, Chair, inquired if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Josie J. Lee, Council Clerk, responded that there are some corrections from the last minutes from Mr. Jack Fagan, Council Member. The following corrections were made: Jack Fagan's correct title is Associate Executive Director (it is not "Associate Acting Director"), Mr. Fagan's correct agency name is T-H-E A-R-C and Mr. Fagan is also the President, Board of Directors of AASCEND ("AASCEND" stands for Autism Asperger's Syndrome Coalition for Education and Networking and Development).

After the above corrections were noted, the Council approved the minutes from the MDC meeting of September 19, 2003

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bob Planthold, Co-Chair, Senior Action Network, Pedestrian Safety Committee, informed Council Members that his group took action today (Friday, October 24th) to oppose the passage of the motorcycle resolution (introduced to the Board of Supervisors on September 30, 2003) because of its threat to deprioritize sidewalk ticketing of motorcycles and its failure to recognize the parking needs of the disability community. It was defeated on the same date that it was introduced, so a follow-up resolution (# 031651) was introduced. However, this new resolution also has problems. Mr. Planthold made several attempts to contact the Board of Supervisors and their staff via e-mails with no responses. Mr. Planthold understood that the Council cannot take action today, but would like them to monitor the agenda for City Services Committee because it seems like this "ill-fated resolution won't die."
- Jean Lynch, Senior Action Network, Pedestrian Safety Task Force and Paratransit Coordinating Council, concurred with Mr. Planthold's statements.
- Bruce Oka, Chair, Paratransit Coordinating Council, wanted to follow-up on the motorcycle parking resolution as well. He concurred with Mr. Planthold's statements. The block in his neighborhood has 2-3 motorcycles currently parking in sidewalks. He has to dodge in between them. He sees this as a safety issue affecting the elderly, disabled and children as well. He strongly opposes any resolution that allows parking of motorcycles, scooters and other motorized vehicles on the sidewalk. The Pedestrian Safety Task Force is having a meeting to discuss this on Monday, October 27th at 5:30PM in Room 408, City Hall.
- Linda Chapman, SPUR, Homeless Task Force spoke on the problems of separate shelters for seniors and people with disabilities. She also felt that existing shelters need to be more accessible.

Minutes – Mayor's Disability Council – October 24, 2003

3

- A gentleman spoke via the "bridge line" about his concerns about the Ramp Taxi program. He stated that a number of Ramp Taxi medallions are going to companies that haven't sufficiently served the disabled community. Mr. Oka's group (Ramp Taxi Group, a sub-group of the Paratransit Coordinating Council) is aware of the problem, and believes that users of the ramp taxis should be involved in the decision-making process. The next Ramp Taxi meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2003 from 11:00AM-1:00PM at the Paratransit Broker's Office located on 1449 Webster Street.

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Ed Evans reported that he is requesting the Chief of Police to ask his captains to go beyond citing motorcycles on sidewalks. They should also enforce no skateboards, no bicycles, etc. He also requested that the Department of Public Works help ensure sidewalks are maintained by giving citations.

6 REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Susan Mizner gave an abbreviated report due to time constraints: She introduced Howard O. Wong, Council Clerk as a new MOD staff member, she welcomed feedback in the new format of mailings – a money conserving effort, and she thanked council members Norma Block and Eugene Flannery who assisted in organizing the agenda and speakers for today.

7 COMMITTEE REPORTS**REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCESS COMMITTEE (PAC)**

Ken Stein reported that at the October 3rd meeting, Harry Mar, Chair of the Programmatic Access Committee, stepped down as Chair, but will continue on the Committee. Mr. Mar has served wonderfully for the past several years and was thanked for his work as a Chair. Mr. Stein introduced Council Member, Jul Lynn Parsons, as the new Chair.

Ms. Parsons reported that the next PAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 7th from 11:00AM-12:30PM at the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind. The committee will be focusing on the definition of disability in relation to SF Municipal Code Section 12D, the "Minority/ Women/Local Business Utilization Ordinance," in order to amend the ordinance to include persons with disabilities.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ed Evans reported that the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 28th has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 from 1:30PM-3:30PM in Room 421 at City Hall.

REPORT FROM THE PHYSICAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Ed Evans reported that the next meeting will be held in the War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 459 on Friday, October 31, 2003 from 2:00PM-3:30PM.

8 COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE AND PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY.

Presentation by Nancy Alfaro, Director, County Clerk's Office

Ms. Alfaro presented an overview of the services that the County Clerk Office provides, including issuing marriage licenses, domestic partner registration and performing civil ceremonies. This office is very busy and sees 150-250 customers a day, a number of whom have disabilities. The office is very accessible with a lowered counter area at the information desk, signs with larger font, etc. In addition, she has a good staff that is trained to assist people with disabilities. Staff is on hand to readily assist in making sure the customer understands the forms and can assist in filling forms out as well. There are some services available on-line, but most services require the person to come to the office for the purpose of verifying identification.

Council members commended the County Clerk's Office for their professionalism and high degree of accessibility to the disability community.

9 INFORMATION AND PUBLIC HEARING ON HOUSING ISSUES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

Presentation by Molly Stafford, AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP).

Molly Stafford announced a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, October 30, 2003 at 10:00AM at City Hall in Room 263. There will be testimony from people living with disabilities, advocates, service providers and housing providers. If you have any further questions and/or would like to testify, contact Bill Hirsh, ALRP, at (415)701-1200 x308.

Some of the issues they will be addressing will be the high housing costs for people with disabilities, lack of sufficient physically accessible housing and discrimination (landlords asking illegal questions, etc).

10 INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION: SAN FRANCISCO'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT, AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Eugene Flannery, Council Member, introduced the topic. A shortage of community services has resulted in the incarceration of people with psychiatric disabilities. Approximately 400,000 people in the United States are incarcerated. A large percentage have serious mental illness. The 2002 Progress report indicated that jails and prisons are becoming "de

facto" mental hospitals. Jail settings are essentially punitive instead of a therapeutic; prison staff aren't trained in the mental health field; the cost of the criminal justice system is much higher than the cost of treatment.

Alex Georgakopoulos started his presentation with additional background information on the rise of the mentally ill in the jail system:

- In 1971, the Lanterman Petris Short Act was intended to reduce the load of mental health patients in hospitals and provide them community services instead. Due to the emptying of in-patient facilities without providing for community-based care, many of the patients ended up on the streets without the sufficient services to live stable lives.
- Many living on the streets end up in the jail system.
- A number of the jail clients are considered untreatable by the community. They have a host of other problems, in addition to their mental disabilities, ranging from substance abuse to treatment non-compliance.
- Jail is a dehumanizing and decompensating experience. Clients would benefit more from increased hospitalization and increased outpatient services.

In the last half of his presentation, Mr. Georgakopoulos spoke about the importance of the behavioral health court and provided an overview of the jail psychiatric and jail aftercare services:

- The jail psychiatric/aftercare office serves as the diagnostic gatekeeper for the court.
- There are 94 psychiatric beds – ten for women only. Unfortunately, the female population of mental health clients is growing dramatically. Also, there are 10 observation rooms for two clients each in their facility. They also have access to San Francisco General Hospital with 120 additional beds, but that is for the general population.
- Clients receive psychiatric care from 8:00AM-10:00PM – 365 days a year.
- The main goal with clients coming into the county jail system is to maintain the continuity of care coming from community.
- They provide basic discharge planning services for clients who choose not to enter treatment, including getting them into shelters.
- Behavioral health court is therapeutic – the judge addresses clients regarding treatment plans, life issues, successes, failures, etc. It is a respectful and warm exchange.
- 70 clients have participated in the program and 11 have graduated.
- There are a lack of services for persons with developmental disabilities and head injuries (Traumatic Brain Injuries - TBI).

The Honorable Ksenia Tsenin could not attend and sent her apologies via Cynthia Johns, Deputy District Attorney in person. Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Public Defender, took her place in the presentation on the Behavioral Health Court.

- The mission of the Behavioral Health Court is to connect criminal defendants suffering from serious mental illness to treatment services in the community; to find creative and appropriate dispositions to their criminal charges, that take the mental illness into consideration, and decrease their chance of returning to the criminal justice system.
- One of Ms. Johnson's goals is to avoid having clients who don't belong in the system end up in state prison. She estimated that 25% to 30% of her clients are mentally ill from an informal survey in her office.
- Unfortunately, she is the only public defender in the behavioral health court and she currently has 60 clients.
- This entire court has been done with no money. It would benefit from funding, but will need responses/data information to monitor cases which they lack the staff and time to provide.

Council members provided additional networking resources/services such as The ARC, Golden Gate Regional Center, Association for Chinese Family of Disabled (ACFD), Protection and Advocacy, Inc.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Delphine Brody, HART Committee Member, expressed some confusion on how the Behavioral Health Court operates - whether the client's choice is actually voluntary, when the choice is jail time or accepting whatever treatment is ordered by the judge. Presenters explained that people don't waive their right to a trial, nor do they choose between remaining in jail or participating in this program. The criminal proceeding is still going on. The court asks the client if they want to make a real effort through Behavioral Health Court, and to waive their right to a speedy trial or resolution of their issue. They can change their mind anytime and they have a choice to participate in the treatment program and Behavioral Health Court or not.

The Behavioral Health Court is held every Thursdays at 2:00PM on the 3rd floor (Department 22) of 850 Bryant Street. The public is welcomed to observe.

11 INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION: WHETHER SAN FRANCISCO SHOULD IMPLEMENT AB 1421, A MEASURE THAT PROVIDES FOR INVOLUNTARY PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT AND ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT. Testimony from experts and community members supporting and opposing implementation, including representatives from the California Network of Mental Health Clients, NAMI San Francisco and the Mental Health Board.

Norma Block, Council Member provided introductory remarks regarding AB1421.

AB 1421 permits counties to mandate outpatient treatment for people whose illness has caused multiple hospitalizations or incarcerations, and who have not been successfully linked with mental health services. It was also known as "Laura's Law" and was signed into

law in September 2002 and became law in January of 2003. The law allows counties to provide court-ordered outpatient treatment if the patient is likely to become dangerous or gravely disabled without it. To establish local assisted outpatient treatment, the Board of Supervisors must pass a resolution saying that no reduction in existing services will occur.

Points in favor:

- Provides treatment for persons who would otherwise not get treatment.
- May prevent costly re-hospitalization.
- May lead to increase in medication compliance, and a decrease in homelessness and less demand for police services.
- May result in cost savings per patient.

Points Opposed:

- Removes individual choice and control of treatment program.
- Voluntary treatment services haven't been adequately developed or utilized.
- It is not clear that involuntary treatment is effective.
- Possible increased court and hearing-related costs.

Sally Zinman (Executive Director, California Network of Mental Health Clients) quoted a statement from the National Council on Disability that "laws that allow the use of involuntary treatments should be viewed as inherently suspect because they are incompatible with the principle of self-determination." AB1421 extends forced treatment from institutions into people's homes and into the community.

There is a huge gap in community-based services that should first be addressed.

Coercion should not be a substitute for services that are not readily accessible. Available and appropriate services would decrease the need for forced treatment. AB1421 moves away from recovery because other people are making decisions for you and is antithetical to the concept of recovery. The measure also pits family members against clients. Everyone agrees that people need more voluntary services. Choice and self-determination are important. Forced treatment has a chilling effect on people's willingness to continue treatment after the forced treatment period is over. Good treatment can only exist in an environment of choice and freedom.

The presumed need for AB1421 is based on myths and stereotypes of the violent mental patient and the myth that medications are a panacea. Medications aren't always reliable and often have serious side effects. The Lanterman Petris Short Act, which mandates forced treatment, is in effect in California, but it is not consistently understood or sufficiently utilized. There are AB 34 programs, which offer a complete array of self-help programs including medication, housing, social support, self-help centers, employment etc. These programs have been very successful, but are under-funded.

A comparable law in New York has had a disproportionate impact on Black men, and homeless people. The law itself is very vaguely written. The emphasis needs to be on choice and self-determination, rather than outpatient commitment.

Kate Walker (Mental Health Board), spoke in opposition to AB1421. If treatments aren't working, maybe they are the wrong treatments. There needs to be an emphasis on providing basic needs for the greatest number of people. The number of people who would end up in prison or in institutions are insignificant compared to the much greater number of people who lack the basics. The Mental Health Board is having a meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2003 at 6:30PM at 1380 Howard Street in the 5th floor Conference Room, to consider this measure.

Delphine Brody, Healthy Access to Real Treatment (HART) Committee member, spoke in opposition to AB1421. The vague language broadening police-enforced involuntary treatment will result in a violation of people's civil rights. A wide variety of people (including family members, house mates, landlords, case managers and others, can petition courts and force people into forced treatment for long periods of time. This law would violate the Olmstead Act and have a disparate impact on homeless people and people of color. There would be huge costs associated with implementation. People with mental illness are capable of self determination for their own treatment or self care.

Bridget Brown (HART Committee Member), a mental health consumer, said that this is about choice. Even though the family members of people with psychiatric disabilities are affected by the family member's disability, we need to give greater consideration to the self-determination of the individual.

Linda Chapman said that the choice of relatives of the patients needs to be considered. There are services that people who are mentally ill aren't taking advantage of. It is not a civil rights issue because people with psychiatric disabilities aren't necessarily able to make the best choices for themselves, to take advantage of services available in the community.

Dale Milfay (a member of NAMI San Francisco) and Georgina Trujillo both spoke in favor of AB 1421 because both have a family member who is mentally ill and who they felt would benefit from this measure. Both spoke in great detail about how difficult it was for their loved one and themselves to go through their illness without involuntary treatments. They also believe in free choice. However, they felt that in their personal situation, their loved one was either in denial, unwilling, and/or unable to make choices for themselves. AB1421 would have been of benefit to their disabled family members.

Eugene Flannery, Council Member, shared from his own personal experience as a consumer of the mental health system. He said it was very difficult for him when he was ill because he couldn't trust his own judgment. It took him several attempts to obtain treatment voluntarily, but when he got it, it was very helpful. However, he sees many of his peers on the streets who are incapable of seeking and getting through treatment on their own initiative. He sees both sides of the issue.

12 CORRESPONDENCE

Ed Evans, Chair, received a document and letter from an attorney. It contends that the Department of Parking and Traffic hasn't adequately addressed the concerns of the disability community. This will be discussed further in the Physical Access Committee and then presented it to the Council.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No requests for future agenda items at this time.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No comments and announcements.

16 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director, MOD

Ed Evans, Chair
Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Jack Fagan
Elizabeth Grigsby
Eugene T. Flannery
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Ruth Nunez
Jul Lynn Parsons
Denise Senhaux

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of

Mayor's Disability Council

Friday, 21 November 2003

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 400

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1:00 p.m.

11-20-03A08:58 RCVD

1. ROLL CALL
2. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes
4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Disability Council. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.
5. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Chair
6. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Acting Director
- 1:15
7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Continued Discussion – Whether San Francisco should implement AB 1421, a measure that provides for involuntary psychiatric treatment and assisted outpatient treatment. Presentations by Community Behavioral Health Services, Mental Health Board, Mental Health Association, San Francisco Police Department, mental health service providers, and others. (1 hour 45 minutes)

[Comments from the public are welcome]

3:00

BREAK

3:15

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Continued discussion, San Francisco's Behavioral Health Court. Council consideration of proposed Resolution Supporting the Behavioral Health Court. (15 Minutes)

[Comments from the public are welcome]

3:30

9. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs
10. DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence
11. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the MDC. (Each speaker is limited to two minutes)
12. DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member requests for future agenda items.
13. DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member comments and announcements.
14. ADJOURNMENT

[Estimated times are only guidelines]

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Regular Meetings – Third Fridays of the month (please confirm dates)

Next Regular Meeting: December 19, 2003

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Mayor's Office on **Disability**



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director

Upcoming Meetings: November & December 2003

MDC Physical Access Committee

Veterans Building
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 459
San Francisco, CA 9402
Tuesday, 25 November 2003
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MDC Programmatic Access Committee

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 421
San Francisco, CA 94102
Monday, 24 November 2003
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Special Meeting)

Rose Resnick Lighthouse
214 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
1st Floor Conference Room (Across from Reception Desk)
Friday, 5 December 2003
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Regular Meeting)

MDC Executive Committee

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 421

San Francisco, CA 94102

Tuesday, 2 December 2003

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

San Francisco, CA 94102

Friday, 19 December 2003

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Jack Fagan
Eugene T. Flannery
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Ruth Nunez
Jul Lynn Parsons
Denise Senhaux

Mayor's Disability Council ~~FINAL~~ DRAFT Minutes 21 November 2003

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1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Vincent Behan, Norma Block, Ed Evans, Jack Fagan, Eugene T. Flannery, Elizabeth Grigsby, Michael Kwok, Ruth Nunez, Jul Lynn Parsons and Denise Senhaux.

Excused Absent: August Longo

Mayor's Office on Disability: Susan Mizner, Acting Director; Richard Skaff, Deputy Director; Ken Stein, Program Administrator, Josie J. Lee, Council Clerk and Howard O. Wong, Council Clerk.

Ed Evans, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Council approved the agenda for the November 21, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC).

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of October 24, 2003 were approved.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

- Lori Guidos, made suggestions to increase access to MDC meetings: She suggested that the bridge line phone number be posted on the television screen during the meeting. Secondly, she noted that SFGTV lists the dates of the monthly MDC meetings, but not the time of the meetings. Finally, she asked when other committee and Board of Supervisor's meetings would have a telephone bridge line as well.

Ed Evans, Chair, responded that Ms. Guidos could provide her contact information to the Council Clerk (Howard O. Wong), to be added on to the regular mailing list, which will provide her with the bridge line telephone number and the times for the monthly meetings. Ms. Guidos was also informed that with 72-hours notice, other meetings in City Hall could have a telephone bridge line available. MOD is working to have available on a regular basis.

- Ruach Graffis suggested that City Hall provide electric carts for the public, just as grocery stores do. As someone with a mobility impairment, but who does not use a wheelchair, she finds it difficult getting around City Hall.

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Ed Evans reported that a number of people had expressed concerns about motorcycles, electric scooters, etc. parked on sidewalks. In fact, sidewalk parking is banned in San Francisco. Mr. Evans urged the San Francisco Police Department to take a very aggressive stand in ridding the sidewalks of these hazards.

Susan Mizner, Acting Director for Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD), responded to Mr. Evans that the Pedestrian Safety Committee was meeting on Monday, November 24, 2003 at 5:30PM in City Hall. They will be discussing issue of motorcycles parked on sidewalk.

6 REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Susan Mizner, Acting Director for Mayor's Office on Disability (MOD), reported that MOD presented its Housing Impediments report to a Subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors, and the Board of Supervisors has expressed a strong interest and wants to follow up on this issue. In the meantime, MOD and the Mayor's Office on Housing will be working together to provide some additional information to the Supervisors and will report on this at a future meeting.

Ms. Mizner reported that MOD is currently revising the City's ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Grievance Procedure. The ADA requires that local governments adopt internal grievance procedures that provide prompt and fair resolution of complaints from the public that allege disability discrimination. MOD has contracted with consultants to research best practices from other cities ADA Grievance Procedures. They completed their findings and came up with a draft proposal. MOD is currently having the draft reviewed by the City's

ADA Coordinators. The Programmatic Access Committee and the MDC will be asked to provide review the procedure and provide their input as well.

Lastly, the MDC by-laws mandate two Co-Chairs for the council. Ed Evan, Chair, has been holding this position on his own for the last 10 months while the Council membership was increased. Next month the MDC will hold an election for a second Co-Chair.

Ms. Mizner encouraged people who have any questions or comments about the work of MOD to call the office at 554-6789 (voice), or 554-6799 (TTY).

7 CONTINUED DISCUSSION – WHETHER SAN FRANCISCO SHOULD IMPLEMENT AB 1421, A MEASURE THAT PROVIDES FOR INVOLUNTARY PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT AND ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT. Presentations by Community Behavioral Health Services, Mental Health Board, Mental Health Association, San Francisco Police Department, Mental Health Service Providers, and others.

Norma Block re-introduced AB 1421 to continue discussion of this item from the previous MDC meeting. AB 1421 is also known as Laura's Law. It deals with assisted psychiatric outpatient treatment for mental health clients.

Robert Douglas, Mental Health Board, reported that this issue had been discussed at a recent Mental Health Board Meeting. He noted that mandatory inpatient treatment for psychiatric disabilities is already part of state law. If someone is suspected of being dangerous to oneself or to others or is gravely disabled, they can be placed on a 72-hour hold. When the 72-hours expires, the doctor can put the individual on a 15-day hold to receive inpatient treatment. AB 1421, provides for involuntary outpatient treatment under certain circumstances. For instance, the Director of Mental Health can force an evaluation and file a petition with the Superior Court. If approved, the Superior Court can order the individual to outpatient treatment for six months.

It is up to the Board of Supervisors to implement this law. No funding from the State can be taken from existing voluntary programs to be put toward this program. AB1421 services must include housing, case management and mental health services. There can be no more than ten clients per mental health worker. So far, Los Angeles is the only county that has implemented this program, and there, it is only used for people in the criminal justice system. No other counties have implemented this law. Mr. Douglas believes that this may be because they wish to avoid the costly litigation that they believe would accompany its implementation.

The Mental Health Board received information and testimony on both sides of this issue, discussed it, and could not come to an agreement. Family members point out that having a psychiatric disability is a very painful experience for both the individual and the families, while consumers point out that there are civil rights issues involved. Some people, who are not opposed to involuntary treatment, are nonetheless opposed to this particular law because of the way it was written.

Edwin Batongbacal, Community Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) provided background for the Council on how mental health services are provided in San Francisco.

The mental health system in San Francisco has a wide range of services. Services include socialization programs, vocational support and training programs. Mental health services are provided in housing programs, such as supportive and cooperative housing; residential care facilities, and homeless shelters. If hospitalization is needed for persons with psychiatric disabilities, there are acute diversion units that complement acute inpatient hospital beds, psychiatric hospitals, long-term care facilities (such as skilled nursing facilities), the mobile crisis treatment team and psychiatric emergency services at San Francisco General Hospital. This system is funded from a variety of sources, including the County general fund, Medi-Cal and other monies from the State. At a cost of almost \$165 million this fiscal year, the system of care has served almost 23,000 individuals.

Mental health services are currently merging with substance abuse services into a new community behavioral health service system. Sixty to seventy percent of individuals who have substance abuse disabilities or mental illness are dual-diagnosed. In San Francisco, there are over 4,200 clients in the Department of Mental Health who are being served by both mental health and substance abuse services. Integration of service delivery is important in order to improve the quality of care provided to people with recurring disorders.

Last year, CBHS began implementing an "Advance Access" program, whereby an intake assessment is completed within 24 to 48 hours of referral. In the past, it could take 7-8 weeks before an assessment was done. CBHS provides services to medically indigent adults who lack health insurance or who have no personal means to pay for the services.

In regard to barriers to physical accessibility, each provider in the CBHS system of care has to be certified. The certification process includes checking that providers meet ADA disability requirements.

People with developmental disabilities cannot be discriminated against in the provision of services. CBHS has a mental health case manager who is developing expertise in this area. CBHS also has a memorandum of understanding with the Golden Gate Regional Center.

Several other models are somewhat comparable to AB 1421. These include AB 2034 and the Behavioral Health Court. AB 2034 is an integrated service project funded to serve homeless individuals who have severe psychiatric symptoms as well as repeated hospitalizations or incarcerations. There is a great deal of consumer involvement in this program. The results are impressive, and include a 40% reduction in psychiatric hospitalization; a 75% reduction in days of incarceration; an 84% reduction in days of homelessness; and a 45% increase in annual average days employed for their population.

The Behavioral Health Court is different from AB 1421 in that it provides an opportunity and a choice for mentally ill offenders to receive services from a non-criminalized vantage point, from the judicial system. It receives approximately five referrals a week.

Eugene T. Flannery inquired if implementing AB1421 would add to the continuum of care in San Francisco. Also, he was wondering if this program's positive impact would ultimately reduce future costs.

Mr. Batongbacal responded that he believe it would add to care, but expressed concerns about the efficiency and the extra costs associated with implementation. These extra costs include the court processes, court oversight, pre-filing investigation work, etc. Also, he questioned if it would be cost-effective to implement this program rather than putting money into the existing AB 2034 programs. The bigger question is what is the most efficient way to provide treatment.

Sergeant Michael Sullivan, San Francisco Police Department spoke on the three choices officers face when they arrive at a crime scene; jail, "5150" or neither. If the individual has not engaged in any criminal activity and they don't fit the criteria for 5150, but they need some psychological/mental assistance, the police officer faces a very difficult decision, particularly in light of the absence of adequate mental health referral services.

The police department is working on trainings in conjunction with community mental health services. Sgt. Sullivan feels that a 24-hour Mobile Crisis unit would be helpful because the current one stops operating at 9:00PM. As a result, the night officers are frustrated due to lack of resources available to them. A 24-hour Mobile Crisis drop-in service would be a resource to police officers, paramedics, firefighters, etc. at any time of the day or night. Overall, there seems to be a huge disconnect between treatment and law enforcement.

Ruth Nunez, asked how long the officer has to go through a training regarding working with the mentally ill community – is it a one-time training or once every year? Sgt. Sullivan responded he and other officers have taken a 40-hour intensive course offered quarterly by Community Mental Health. The class does a lot of role-playing. In addition, every two they are required by State law to receive continued education on mental health.

Eugene Flannery asked if Sgt. Sullivan could provide a personal or professional opinion on whether the police, in general, spend an inordinate amount of time responding to non-criminal situations that involve people with mental problems. Sgt. Sullivan responded in both his personal and professional opinion, the answer was "yes."

Dr. Pablo Stewart, Haight Ashbury Free Clinics supports AB 1421. Dr. Stewart encouraged the Council to give up preconceived notions about what mental illness is and what involuntary treatment is. He feels strongly that "treatment" works and it is successful. Treatment keeps people out of trouble and it costs less than no treatment. Mental illness detracts from one's ability to give informed consent. Informed consent for anyone is a complicated process: the individual must be aware of his/her condition, the variety of treatments available to him/her, the side effects of the treatment options, etc. Therefore, most people rely on medical professionals to guide and give them advice.

Untreated, mental illness leads to a variety of bad outcomes including deterioration of the person's quality of life, suicidal tendencies, increased drug and alcohol abuse, and increased medical problems. Studies have shown that 20% of all prisoners are psychotic at the time of admission. AB1421 would significantly turn that around and provide a decrease

in costs to other parts of the system. California has services available that are not available in other states. These include services that are culturally competent services. On the other hand, the mental health system is severely overburdened.

The mental health system is in the middle of a pharmacological revolution. This is the age of very good treatments. Medical treatments today are much better than they were five or ten years ago. The real problem with psychiatric medications is their underutilization, not their over-utilization.

Belinda Lyons, Mental Health Association (MHA) opposes AB 1421.

The MHA of San Francisco supports an early intervention and recovery model. It also supports voluntary community-based services provided in the least restrictive setting. All people should have equal access to full, appropriate, quality, voluntary, community-based, consumer-guided, and culturally sensitive services, regardless of the ability to pay. The full inclusion and involvement of consumers and family members is a core value of their organization.

Some of the concerns that they have about AB 1421 are:

- o the current lack of resources to provide voluntary services.
- o the fact that AB 1421 is called the "Laura's Law" reinforces stigma and promotes stereotypes about people with mental illness as being both violent and dangerous.
- o there is a great deal of fear in the community about people being forced into treatment against their will.

The positive relationship between service provider and client is critical in the recovery process. If AB 1421 is implemented, it would put individuals through a series of procedures and court proceedings – it would be very expensive and not necessarily therapeutic. However, when people who are chronically homeless with serious mental illness receive voluntary flexible services, access to housing, and vocational opportunities, they can and have done better.

AB 1421 is very similar to an existing program, AB 34. The only difference is that AB34 is completely voluntary. It provides services here and in thirty other counties in California. It has been very successful and has resulted in an 84% reduction in homelessness, as well as reductions in incarcerations and hospitalization. People are concerned about how an implementation of AB1421 would affect the relationship between the service provider and client, which must be based on trust. Would this affect the success AB 34 been having? Ms. Lyons supports a greater reliance upon voluntary integrated service programs like AB 34, which have already proven themselves to be successful.

MHA is putting their efforts toward promoting funding community-based mental health programs that work. The association supports the Mental Health Services Act and is hoping that it could get onto the November 2004 ballot. This initiative would provide an array of voluntary preventive mental health services based on the AB 34 model. The Act would be funded by a tax on annual incomes over one million, taking 1 cent of every dollar earned OVER 1 million. Additional information about the Mental Health Initiative is posted on the website: www.mentalhealthcampaign.org.

Eugene Flannery agreed the therapeutic relationship between the caregiver and client is an integral part of treatment. He has concerns that if this relationship becomes involuntary, that this would affect the success of the treatment.

Mr. Flannery noted that individuals in court-ordered substance abuse treatment programs are also participants in involuntary programs that would be comparable to the programs mandated by AB1421, such as Walden House (WH). WH has services where people from the criminal justice systems are mixed in with other populations in the mental health system, and that it seems to work successfully there.

Dr. Abner Boles, Executive Director, Westside Community Mental Health (WCMH) Dr. Boles explained that WCMH provides mental health services for severely emotionally troubled adults, children and families. They also provide substance abuse services, including methadone detox and maintenance. Dr. Boles strongly opposes the implementation of AB 1421 because it is redundant to the current service delivery system. AB 1421 would create additional costs where there are not adequate services currently. He believes this initiative would primarily affect those individuals who find it difficult to access services for two reasons – the first one is that these services don't necessarily fit their needs, and the second is that services aren't necessarily accessible or appropriate to their needs.

Dr. Boles reported that San Francisco has a very poor success rate in providing ongoing care for African American men who are released from locked facilities, including long-term treatment facilities outside of the county. The implementation of AB1421 would target those individuals and actually criminalize their behavior. The county needs to have more access to residential care and supported housing for individuals who are severely troubled and unable to access these services rather than force them into care.

WCMH has a methadone detox program that is a six-month program. Currently the program has a 50% client base from court-referred cases. Some of the clients don't complete the program because they are mandated by the court and this doesn't ensure that they will stay with the program. Therefore, the mental health system needs to present a different package with more aggressive outreach. It is difficult to initiate another court process or legal process because it will lead to a greater deterrent to people seeking voluntary care.

Dr. Boles noted that literature supporting AB 1421 failed to reference recent studies indicating that successful voluntary programs exist for those individuals who historically have not utilized traditional mental health care services.

Johnathan Vernick, Baker Places (BP), presented some information about Baker Places, which opposes AB 1421. Baker Places is a non-profit organization with 11 residential treatment programs for people with mental health problems, as well as people with substance abuse issues. They provide two medically-managed detox programs. Through a collaborative effort with the hotel operators, BP also provides case management services to many people who are living in residential hotels.

Mr. Vernick believes that providing good services to people involves "rehabilitation." In other words, creating opportunities for people to take control over their own lives and be able to learn to function independently. Institutions such as skilled nursing facilities don't create that opportunity because they are trying to control behaviors that might be a threat to other people, or might be a danger to the clients themselves.

Baker Places works with people who are dually diagnosed and picked up off the street. Many of them refused treatment before; they would be called "treatment-resistant." But with the environment at Baker Places, in which they participate in their own treatment, they are successful. AB 1421 puts the ability to work in a rehabilitative way with clients at risk.

Mr. Vernick testified that San Francisco does not have enough services for the mentally ill, and the current budget crisis implementing AB 1421 would be unrealistic. It is a very expensive program, not only because of the services required, but also because of the associated court costs.

Steve Fields, Progress Foundation (PF) opposes the implementation of AB 1421. PF has been providing services to the severely mentally ill since 1969. Mr. Fields said that there is a pattern in mental health that the clients are blamed and we try to control their behavior – which has never worked.

Mr. Fields reported that there is no study that supports the idea of involuntary coercive treatment for people with severe mental illness. In the frequently cited Rand Study, they found that of the 8 states with provisions for involuntary outpatient treatment, at best they showed no difference in outcomes, and at worst they showed a diminution in participation. It did show that wherever a state added services coincident with involuntary outpatient work, they got better results on the part of the people who came voluntarily to the expanded services.

Mr. Fields asked the Council why the City should consider rolling back fundamental civil rights provisions for people with mental illness when there is no evidence-based practice to show that it works.

Mr. Fields said that the literature does show, repeatedly, that if you provide what the consumer needs, and mold the service in response to those needs, you get engagement where before, you seemed to be getting resistance.

The problem in San Francisco, according to Mr. Fields, is that we have continued to lose beds for people with severe psychiatric illnesses. There have not been the resources to keep pace with the growth and needs of the population. In fact, San Francisco has lost beds since 1982.

AB 1421 requires that, before you make someone participate in a program involuntarily, they have to have been offered voluntary participation in a voluntary program that meets their needs. If San Francisco can't offer a voluntary choice for every person we want to go through this elongated judicial process, then AB 1421 cannot be implemented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Grace, an Oakland resident, spoke of his concerns about the alleged abuse in health care – hospitals and group homes. Also, that more money is needed for health care.

Dale Milfay, National Alliance from Mentally Ill, said that her son would benefit from AB 1421. Her son has run away from existing programs, but he does follow the law and would take his medications if he were ordered to. She feels that forced treatment can greatly reduce overall system costs.

Maureen Cattanach, Family & Friends of the Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, noted that a lot of mentally disabled people won't take their medication because of side effects and are in denial. She has seen people going in and out of emergency rooms, get stabilized and return back to the hospital. Also, a lot of these people end up in the streets and in jail. Therefore, many changes are needed in the mental health system.

Tom Purvis, a member of NAMI and AASCEND, spoke about a family member who he cares for, who refuses to leave her home and is on a downhill spiral. He feels something needs to be done in the mental health system.

Raymond Vega, knows an individual with mental illness and an alcohol abuse problem. He is not in the criminal system because he has not committed any crime. However, if he were a criminal, there would be more programs available to him. During the holidays, additional services are needed for people with mental illness.

Delphine Brody, HART Committee Member, opposes the implementation of AB 1421 because she believes it violates the Olmstead Act. This act mandates that people live in the least restrictive community-based settings for as long as they are able to do so.

Alan Shipley, a client advocate, opposes AB 1421. There were two similar measures, AB 1800 and AB 1828, on the State level which were proposed awhile back, but the mental health community was able to get the legislators put that aside. He believes that AB 1421 would take away the "faith" clients have in the mental health system.

Scott Clark, a member of AB 2034 Consumer Advisory Board, feels that more people should be involved with groups such as support groups for the mentally ill as a part of their treatment process. He is currently a co-facilitator of a new support group for schizophrenia and schizo-effective disorders.

Linda Chapman, SPUR and Homeless Task Force, said that we need to use our resources more wisely. She pointed out that a report from the state of California indicates successful results from AB 2034. This measure assisted severely mentally ill individuals who are homeless and provided them supportive housing, intense treatment, etc. This resulted in a 78% decrease in hospitalization. Also, the number of days of incarceration dropped 85% and the number of days of being homeless 69%. The Continuum of Care Report lists approximately 7,000 units of supportive housing currently in place. Individuals need to take advantage of the existing resources, such as those noted above.

8 CONTINUED DISCUSSION – SAN FRANCISCO'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT.

Postponed to the next monthly meeting due to time constraints.

9 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Postponed to the next monthly meeting due to time constraints.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Postponed to the next monthly meeting due to time constraints.

11 PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Postponed to the next monthly meeting due to time constraints.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Postponed to the next monthly meeting due to time constraints.

14 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council



Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director, MOD

Ed Evans, Chair
Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Jack Fagan
Elizabeth Grigsby
Eugene T. Flannery
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Ruth Nunez
Jul Lynn Parsons
Denise Senhaux

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of

Mayor's Disability Council

Friday, 19 December 2003

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 400

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1:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL
2. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Agenda
3. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes

1:10

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Mayor's Disability Council. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.
5. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Chair
6. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Acting Director
7. INFORMATION ITEM: Report from the Committee Chairs

1:25

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Continued discussion, San Francisco's Behavioral Health Court. Council consideration of proposed Resolution Supporting the Behavioral Health Court. (15 Minutes)

[Comments from the public are welcome]

1:40

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Continued Discussion – Whether San Francisco should implement AB 1421, a measure that provides for involuntary psychiatric treatment and assisted outpatient treatment. Discussion among Council members (30 Minutes)

[Comments from the public are welcome]

2:10

10. INFORMATION ITEM: Suicide Prevention Hotline - Presentation by Eve Meyer, Suicide Prevention Hotline (20 Minutes)

2:30 Break

2:40

- 11 INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEM: Review of Proposed new ADA Grievance Procedure for San Francisco - Presentation by consultants and MOD Staff (45 minutes)

3:25

12. ACTION ITEM: Election for Co-Chair of the Council. (15 Minutes)

13. DISCUSSION ITEM: Correspondence

14. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on today's agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the MDC. Each speaker is limited to two minutes.

15. DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member requests for future agenda items.

16. DISCUSSION ITEM: Council Member comments and announcements.

17. ADJOURNMENT

[Estimated times are only guidelines]

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Telephone Bridge at (415) 554-9632.

Members of the public who wish to listen to and/ or participate in this meeting but are unable to physically attend, may call into the Council's 'Telephone Bridge Line' at 554-9632. Up to thirty persons may listen on this conference line, and may be recognized to speak during public comment periods. Call 554-9632 after 1:00 p.m. and a staff person will handle requests to speak at the appropriate times on the agenda.

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Regular Meetings – Third Fridays of the month (please confirm dates)

Next Regular Meeting: January 16, 2004

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Mayor's Disability Council

401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 300

San Francisco, CA 94102

E-mail: mod@sfgov.org Fax: 415. 554-6159

Mayor's Office on **Disability**



Willie L. Brown, Jr.

Mayor

Susan Mizner

Acting Director

Upcoming Meetings: December 2003 & January 2004

MDC Physical Access Committee
Tuesday, December 16, 2003
(CANCELLED – due to staff illness)

Next Physical Access Committee Mtg
Friday, 30, January 2004
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

in

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 421
San Francisco, CA 94102

MDC Programmatic Access Committee
Rose Resnick Lighthouse
214 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
1st Floor Conference Room
(Across from Reception Desk)
Friday, 9 January 2004
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

MDC Executive Committee

Veterans Building

401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 459

San Francisco, CA 94102

Tuesday, 16 December 2003

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(please note date and room change due to holidays!)

Mayor's Disability Council

City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400

San Francisco, CA 94102

Friday, 19 December 2003

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Mayor's Disability Council



Gavin C. Newsom
Mayor

Susan Mizner
Acting Director, MOD

Ed Evans
Chair

Vincent Behan
Norma Block
Jack Fagan
Eugene T. Flannery
Elizabeth Grigsby
Michael Kwok
August Longo
Ruth Nunez
Jul Lynn Parsons
Denise Senhaux

Mayor's Disability Council Minutes 19 December 2003

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1 ROLL CALL

Mayor's Disability Council Members Present: Norma Block, Ed Evans, Jack Fagan, Eugene T. Flannery, Michael Kwok, Ruth Nunez, Jul Lynn Parsons and Denise Senhaux.

Absent: Vincent Behan, Elizabeth Grigsby and August Longo

Mayor's Office on Disability: Susan Mizner, Acting Director; Josie J. Lee, Council Clerk and Howard O. Wong, Council Clerk.

Ed Evans, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Council approved the agenda for the December 19, 2003 Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) Meeting.

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of November 21, 2003 were approved.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ruach Graffis updated a suggestion she made at the last MDC Meeting, that City Hall should provide electric scooters for the public. She reported that City Hall has available non-motorized wheelchairs that are kept at the information booth on the Van Ness side of City Hall; but expressed concern that there are no signs to inform

the public of this, and not all of the guards are aware that they are available. She suggested that the deputies' training should include training about the availability of these wheelchairs. She also suggested that the deputies ask persons with disabilities if they would like to use the wheelchairs that are available.

Ms. Graffis indicated that because she and others are unable to use a manual wheelchair, she would still recommend that electric scooters be made available to the public. She said that they cost less than \$2,000, and that the engine/motor can be easily replaced and can be easily plugged into a 110 socket for recharging.

- Lori Guidos called in via the Bridge Line. She suggested that the Bridge Line phone number should be listed on the television screen at the start of MDC meeting. She also suggested that there should be a direct link on MOD's website to the SFGTV's website.
- Walter Park spoke in opposition to the proposed state cuts to Healthy Families and the Lanterman Program as these cuts would hurt a great many people most in need of services. Mr. Park advocated resolving the State's budget problems through increasing revenue. He noted that Prop 56 which has qualified for the March 2004 ballot would create one set of rates for residential property taxpayers and another for commercial taxpayers – the voters' intention when they passed Prop 13. This would enable commercial property owners to be taxed without the requirement of a two-thirds vote. Mr. Park can be contacted at "walterpark@sbcglobal.org".

5 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Ed Evans reported that sidewalks in San Francisco are getting more hazardous all the time. He has been talking to the Police Department about this issue and he hopes in the future that there will be a resolution to this problem.

6 REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Susan Mizner reported that the Department of Public Traffic will be coming to the Council Meeting in January to discuss both parking on the sidewalk, as well as pedestrian access to traffic circles.

Ms. Mizner said that the economic situation had made the year a difficult one for the City, for the disability community, and for the Mayor's Office on Disability. Ms. Mizner thanked all the Council Members for volunteering their time, for their assistance to MOD, and for their thoughtful grappling with the issues presented before them each month at the MDC meetings.

Ms. Mizner informed Council Members that Ken Stein has been developing short information sheets on a variety of issues having to do with disability and the ADA. The first set of these sheets deal with deaf and hard of hearing issues. They have already been reviewed by the Programmatic Access Committee and are available for the Council to review. MOD is planning to use them both for training within the City, as well as an advocacy tool for the public.

In addition, Ms. Mizner reported that Richard Skaff and Jim Whipple are in the process of formalizing architectural policies ranging from the number of curb ramps in construction sites, to whether the present guidelines for playground structures provide enough access for children and family members with disabilities.

7 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

REPORT FROM THE PROGRAMMATIC ACCESS COMMITTEE

Jul Lynn Parsons, Chair of the Programmatic Access Committee reported that the committee has reached a consensus on using California's Fair Employment and Housing Act definition of disability in conjunction with extending 12 D to include disabled-owned businesses. The next meeting of the PAC is on Friday, January 9, 2004 from 11:00AM-12:30PM at the Rose Resnick Lighthouse for the Blind. The public is encouraged to attend.

REPORT FROM THE PHYSICAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Ed Evans, Chair, reported that the committee is working on prioritizing issues relating to physical access. One of the main items is accessibility to City-funded housing. He noted that there is a tremendous need for accessible and affordable housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

8 CONTINUED DISCUSSION – SAN FRANCISCO'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT.

Eugene Flannery reported the Behavioral Health Court provides an opportunity for people with mental disabilities to go through the legal system without being incarcerated for criminal behavior when that behavior is due to their disability. He believes that the Behavior Health Court is the best solution presently available. Mr. Flannery read the proposed resolution supporting the Behavioral Health Court (See Attached).

Delphine Brody, Regional Coordinator of the California Network of Mental Health Clients, testified against the Behavioral Health Courts. She feels that it is discriminatory and noted that the ongoing criminalization of persons with disabilities is no solution.

After the discussion and public comments, council members voted on the resolution. The motion passed, with seven Yes votes and one Abstention (Ruth Nunez).

9 CONTINUED DISCUSSION - WHETHER SAN FRANCISCO SHOULD IMPLEMENT AB 1421, A MEASURE THAT PROVIDES FOR INVOLUNTARY PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT AND ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT.

Ed Evans, Chair, said that AB 1421 is another tool and resource for families, the psychiatric community, police departments, etc. to assist people with mental illness. He proposed that the Council approve the implementation of AB 1421.

Eugene Flannery opposes implementation because there is no dedicated funding to cover the legal costs, court costs, etc. This measure supports outpatient treatment which he feels is the least effective type of treatment for the intended population because it allows for one to three outpatient visits per week, which is not sufficient for treatment. Lastly, he has heard from other health care providers and the Department of Public Health who advised strongly this is not an effective tool. He made a motion that MOD draw up a resolution opposing implementation of AB 1421 in the City and County of San Francisco.

Jul Lynn Parsons feels that this particular law could be worded better. She expressed support for community advocates who had testified that there is a need for more services.

Norma Block pointed out that AB 1421 stipulates the provision of housing is necessary, but currently there is a crisis of affordable housing in San Francisco. In addition, voluntary services are not being met.

Michael Kwok does not support this measure because of the potential cost, funding, and reasonable doubt of its effectiveness.

Ruth Nunez suggested that the community needs to talk to leaders about taking a more therapeutic approach. She said we need to put ourselves in the situation and think about how we would like to be treated. Ms. Nunez believes that the community needs to focus on decriminalizing behaviors, on providing less dehumanizing treatment options, and on working *with* people who have mental illness and not against them.

During Public Comment, Delphine Brody thanked the Council members who oppose the implementation of AB 1421. She supports a resolution opposing this measure. She believes that voluntary treatment is always much more effective than involuntary treatment. Ms. Brody pointed out that the Mental Health Initiative is working on various proposals to be brought up for the November 2004 ballot which would provide funding for a variety of voluntary community-based and client-driven types of treatments.

After the discussion, the Council voted unanimously to oppose implementation of AB 1421.

10 SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE – Presentation by Eve Meyer, Suicide Prevention Hotline

Eve Meyer, the Director of San Francisco Suicide Prevention, presented a history of the Suicide Prevention Hotline. Until 1962, in California, it was illegal to attempt to commit suicide. If for some reason, one lived through one's suicide attempt, one would be jailed. A news crew from Britain founded the first suicide hotline in the United States. It was staffed by volunteers and became San Francisco Suicide Prevention. At that time, it was called "Bruce" because one could not say the word "suicide". Within the first month, 30 phone calls came in, one phone call per day. Today, the hotline receives 200 phone calls per day.

Ms. Meyer noted that the reason for this increase was due to the Hotline's ready accessibility, enabling people to just "phone in," rather than having to go somewhere to talk to someone. The Hotline is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The service is free. They have installed a TTY line, so that it is now directly accessible for deaf and hard of hearing callers as well. The office is staffed entirely with volunteers, making it a true "community service." The service assists callers across a broad range of disabilities, including emotional, mental, physical and developmental. The Hotline has also expanded its training and volunteer pool to include people with a variety of abilities. They are currently planning a computer online service, so that people will be able to access the hotline by e-mail or via their website (www.sfsuicide.org).

Due to a lack of funding, they have a difficult time advertising their services. Ms. Meyer pointed out that there are two sets of people they are trying to reach out to. The first are those people who are considering choosing human services as a career; the hotline is a great place to volunteer to gain experience and to see if this is something that they would like to pursue as a career choice. The second group of people are those in need of services.

Norma Block commended Ms. Meyer on her presentation and their services. Ms. Block asked if callers were screened as to their need for mental health services. Ms. Meyer responded that suicide is a pain issue and often one can tell if someone is in pain. One cannot put the idea of suicide into someone's head. It is very unnatural to talk about suicide, but the fact that a person is talking about it to another person is a gift, considering the attitudes in Western society regarding suicide.

Ed Evans inquired as to what services are available to the person after they contact the hotline. Ms. Meyer responded that her staff tries to link people to other services. Many of the people have already been to those services, no longer want to go to these services, and have called the hotline as a last resort. Ms. Meyer pointed out there is a common perception that when someone calls, they are advised them not to kill themselves, and provided with a phone number for some other agency and they never hear from them again. The fact is that the process is ongoing. The hotline becomes their support system, sometimes for years.

Jul Lynn Parsons complimented Ms. Meyer's office for providing a great service to the community. She commended them for having a TTY line and for offering services directly to the deaf community. Ms. Parson said the on-line service will be very useful and wanted to be kept informed of this and other future projects.

Denise Senhaux asked what the training entails, and how the public can utilize this hotline. Ms. Meyer responded that training starts out by teaching people about "active listening," which means listening to someone without imposing your own judgment on what they are saying. Also, they teach their staff not to try to "fix" or give advice on the situation, but to assist the callers to arrive at solutions for themselves.

The public can reach the 24-hour hotline by calling 781-0500 (voice) or 781-2224 (TTY). Persons with AIDS/HIV specific issues can call (415) 781-2226 from 5:00PM-5:00AM. Again, she reiterated that they don't have much funding for advertising and outreach, except for a few fliers with large print. They spend the funding they do have on rent and salaries.

Jack Fagan asked if their staff receives any special training in handling calls from the deaf community. Ms. Meyer responded that staff from UCSF's Center on Deafness trains hotline staff in the specific protocols used for TTY calls, including verbal expressions and typing shortcuts.

During public comment, Jerry Grace asked how many people have committed suicide. Ms. Meyer responded that the number in San Francisco usually hovers round 100-120. It goes up and down with the economy. Currently, it is rising; last year's number was 111. The number of homicides last year was 69. The number of suicides is always approximately one-third higher than the number of homicides in San Francisco. Nationally, it is usually about twice as high.

11 REVIEW OF PROPOSED NEW ADA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR SAN FRANCISCO – Presentation by consultants and MOD Staff.

Susan Mizner introduced the topic, explaining that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires all cities to have an ADA Grievance Procedure. When the Mayor's Office on Disability began in 1999, it inherited a Grievance Procedure that had not been reviewed or vetted in years. Furthermore, when program managers were surveyed, and asked about an ADA Grievance Procedure, many did not know one existed.

The Mayor's Office on Disability hired the consultants, Magar & Milstein, to research ADA grievance procedures around the country to learn the best practices, and propose updates or modifications to San Francisco's procedure. Ms. Mizner introduced Ms. Milstein, who presented the Draft Grievance Procedure and reported on comments from ADA Coordinators and community members.

Ms. Milstein reported that one of their goals was for San Francisco to embrace a citywide policy of non-discrimination and full inclusion for people with disabilities. Three things were used as guiding principles in drafting the grievance procedure.

1. To promote cooperation between a complainant and the City, rather than fostering an adversarial environment. The grievance procedure should be seen as an opportunity to open dialogue between a person with a disability and the City.
2. To take full advantages of existing expertise and resources available in the bay area. Therefore, the grievance procedure will incorporate the capacity for both sides to be able to confer with people with expertise.
3. To ensure that the procedure in no way disadvantages people with disabilities from their rights and opportunities under Federal law and state law, in order to help ensure that people with disabilities will go through the grievance procedure process rather than filing a lawsuit against the City.

Under the proposed Grievance Procedure, any individual who believes that he or she, or a specific person, or a specific class of individuals has been discriminated against on the basis of disability by the City and County of San Francisco or any its contractors, may file a grievance. Authorized representatives may also file complaints on behalf of any aggrieved party. The discrimination may involve either physical or programmatic access to any programs, services and activities of the City.

A complainant has 180 calendar days to file a complaint. The complainant is encouraged to file the complaint with the City department, which is responsible for the alleged act of discrimination. The complaint may also be filed with the Mayor’s Office on Disability, which will forward the complaint along to the proper department.

After filing a complaint, a letter of acknowledgment will be sent out within four business days, informing them that their letter has been received and identifying the person who will be investigating the matter. If someone is unable to file a complaint in writing, then the person can also do it on the telephone. Within 12 business days of the receipt of the signed complaint, the responsible ADA coordinator must investigate and provide a proposed resolution to be sent to the complainant.

When the complainant receives the results of the investigation with the proposed resolution, he/she will be given 15 business days to review it and comment. This will give the individual the opportunity to contact resources such as Protection and Advocacy, the Independent Living Resource Center, or other advocates, to advise them whether or not the resolution will meet their needs or can be improved. If the complainant does not respond within 15 business days, the resolution will become final. However, if the complainant does respond within the allotted time, the ADA coordinator will have 5 business days to consider the complainant’s suggestions and make any changes to the proposed resolution. Once the complainant receives the final resolution, he/she has an additional 20 business days to consider whether she wants to appeal the decision.

A three-person panel will decide the appeal. The panel will consist of an ADA coordinator from another department, and the other two will be people in the community with expertise in the ADA. MOD will develop a pool of community people with expertise in disability rights issues, and draw from that pool. The appeal will consist of a hearing at which the ADA coordinator will present the results of the investigation and the proposed resolution. The complainant can request the assistance of an ombudsperson during this hearing.

Magar and Milstein have suggested building in a quality assurance system and a record-keeping system to the grievance procedure, so that the City could have a way of assessing systemic problems as well as determining which departments are receiving an inordinate number of complaints and/or appeals. They propose the record keeping be done both by the City department involved, as well as by MOD, and that the record be kept for a period of 5 years. It was also recommended that the quality assurance should be handled by MOD to do spot-checks by calling a number of the complainants to evaluate their experience with the process.

Council members discussed whether filing one’s complaint should initially go directly to the responsible department, or to MOD; methods of investigation, as well as concerns regarding people with cognitive or developmental disabilities who may have difficulties explaining their issues; etc.

The Council Members commended Ms. Milstein and her consulting firm and all members agreed that more training is needed in all areas of the ADA Grievance Procedures.

12 ELECTION FOR CO-CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL.

Two council members, Jack Fagan and Michael Kwok, were nominated to be co-chair of the MDC. The first vote was a tie between the two candidates. A second vote was taken, and once again, it came out a tie. It was decided that a run-off vote would take place at the next regular MDC meeting on Friday, January 16. The nominees were instructed by Ms. Mizner to come prepared to co-chair the January meeting.

13 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

14 ITEMS NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA, BUT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE MDC.

Michael Kwok announced that he is working with the Planning for Elders in the Central City on making Medi-Cal available to those elderly who are qualified. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please call (415) 703-0188 or visit their website at www.planningforelders.org.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

Ms. Mizner reported that the MDC's meeting has a full agenda for the next few months. In January, the Department of Parking and Traffic will be attending with a presentation. There will be a DCARA Training at February's MDC Meeting. Also, for March, there will be a training in Aspergers Syndrome and Autism. However, MDC is open for agenda items in April.

Some council members suggested future agenda items include the Ramp Taxi Program, a presentation on the standardization for curb ramps, and Accessibility issues relating to homelessness.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Mr. Evans, Chair, wished everyone a Happy Holidays and asked everyone to take a moment to think about the people overseas during this time, and to reach out to families who are less fortunate.

17 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor’s Disability Council
City and County of San Francisco
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT
Resolution # 2003-01

Whereas, persons with mental illness, cognitive, emotional and developmental disabilities are being incarcerated in increasingly large numbers in the United States largely because of a lack of access to community mental health treatment and other related public services, and

Whereas, approximately one in five persons in American jails and prisons has been diagnosed with a serious mental illness and seventy percent of inmates with mental illness are imprisoned for non-violent offenses, and

Whereas, in the City and County of San Francisco, the City Jail is the largest facility providing mental health services, and

Whereas, in its 2002 Progress Report the National Council on Disability recognized that the criminal justice system is becoming the leading control mechanism for persons with cognitive, perceptual, emotional and mental disabilities, and

Whereas, it is important to question the appropriateness of incarcerating people with these conditions who have committed certain offenses in lieu of treating them in the community, and

Whereas, the effect of incarceration on these individuals is devastating, with concomitant negative impacts on the criminal justice system and the community as a whole, and

Whereas, the Criminal Justice System is intended to deter and punish criminals, and jail settings are essentially punitive and this is the antithesis of a therapeutic environment, and

Whereas, once incarcerated, this population, because of the nature of their disability, has a higher than average disciplinary rate, which often means they have a higher rate of solitary confinement than the general prison population and stigmatization as problem prisoners which may delay release and compound and exacerbate their existing disabilities, and

Whereas, the affected population is at risk of danger from predatory and dangerous inmates while incarcerated, and

Whereas, the result is both increased criminal recidivism and deterioration in their mental health, and

Whereas, the incarceration of this population results in increased costs and increased strains on the delivery of services by the police, courts, prisons, probation and parole services and causes increased harm to all members of the community, and

Whereas, increased costs to the criminal justice system divert resources from education, health care and infrastructure development, and

Whereas, the criminalization of this population limits the ability of peace officers to protect society from the actions of serious criminal offenders, and

Whereas, the affected population losses the ability for self-actualization and the opportunity to contribute to our society, and

Whereas, by offering an alternative to incarceration, the San Francisco Behavioral Health Court preserves criminal justice resources for more serious offenders, while at the same time providing access for treatment for those in need, and

Whereas, the San Francisco Behavioral Health Court has the potential of reducing the costs of incarceration, protecting society from crime and contributing to the increased participation in society of persons with mental and emotional disabilities, while also reducing the likelihood of its client's subsequent re-arrest, and

Whereas, the San Francisco Behavioral Health Court, performs its mission with minimal intrusion upon the civil rights of its clients by providing them with a choice to participate in voluntary treatment and by actively involving them in the development and oversight of their treatment program, and

Whereas, the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, Jail Psychiatric Services and other treatment entities are volunteering their already-limited resources for the operation of the Behavioral Health Court, and

Whereas, the San Francisco Behavioral Court currently receives no funding of its own, and consequently is only able to serve the barest minimum number of clients who could benefit from this program;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Mayor's Disability Council urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to support the San Francisco Behavioral Health Court through direct funding, for recognition of the Behavioral Health Court, and by increasing the availability of services necessary for the successful treatment of Behavioral Health Court clients.



